PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2006–2007

COMPRISING PERIOD
16 April—3 May 2007

Cam/Ref (12/07)

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BANQUETING SUPERVISOR—Patrick Cree

Catering Services – Outbuildings—

OPERATIONS MANAGER—Della Herd

SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGERS – OUTBUILDINGS—Andrew Buckmaster

MANAGER – PORTCULLIS HOUSE—Denise Durkin

MANAGER – 1 PARLIAMENT STREET (BELLAMY'S)—Toby Mullee

MANAGER – 7 MILLBANK—James Ellis

Finance and Accounts Office—

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER—Morounke Akingbola

FINANCE MANAGER—Caroline Young

ACCOUNTS OFFICE STAFF—Connie Bichri, Alison Cutts, Hannah Scott

CASHIER—Kate Lapidge

PURCHASING MANAGER—Antony Avella

HEAD STOREKEEPER—Mark Wildash

PARLIAMENTARY ICT SERVICE (PICT)

DIRECTOR OF PICT—Joan Miller

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS—Matthew Taylor

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES—Richard Ware

DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC PROJECTS—Paul Silk

APPLICATION SERVICES MANAGER—Innis Montgomery

CUSTOMER SERVICES MANAGER—Steve Judd

MEMBERS' COMPUTING OFFICER (COMMONS)—Peter Beasley

MEMBERS' COMPUTING OFFICER (LORDS)—Loraine Midda

TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGER—Caroline Robertson

OTHER PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

CLERK OF THE CROWN IN CHANCERY—Alex Allan
COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL—Sir John Bourn, KCB
PARLIAMENTARY AND HEALTH SERVICE OMBUDSMAN—Ann Abraham

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 16 April 2007

TREASURY

UK Debt Management Office

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): The UK Debt Management Office (DMO) has today published its business plan for the year 2007-08. Copies are available in the Library and from DMO's website at: www.dmo.gov.uk.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Civil Court Fees

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Vera Baird): The Department for Constitutional Affairs has published "Civil Court Fees", a consultation paper, which sets out proposals to:

reform the system of fee exemptions and remissions;

increase fees for civil business in magistrates' courts; and

re-balance the fee structure in the other civil courts.

The purpose of the consultation is to identify in the package of proposals whether—

(1) the new system of fee concessions is well-targeted, simple, transparent and consistent;

(2) the re-balanced structure of civil fees provides a closer match between income and cost drivers within the system; and

(3) the particular increase in an individual fee might have specific untoward consequences.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be obtained free on the Department's website at: http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/confr.htm#full. The closing date for consultation is 25 June 2007.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC Chairman

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Tessa Jowell): I wish to announce formally the appointment of Sir Michael Lyons as the new chairman of the BBC. Her Majesty the Queen approved his appointment in Council on 4 April and it will take effect from 1 May for a period of four years. Sir Michael brings a very wide range of experience and skills to the task of leading the BBC Trust in its role of representing the interests of licence fee payers, and in holding to account the executive board, which is responsible for the day-to-day management of the BBC. He and his colleagues on the Trust have a unique part to play in the future of public service broadcasting through their continued delivery of the new model of governance at the BBC and I am confident that, in Sir Michael, the BBC will have a chairman of whom it can be proud.

The process by which Sir Michael was appointed followed the guidance of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA), and was scrutinised by an OCPA independent assessor throughout. The post was advertised in the national press and on the DCMS and Cabinet Office websites, shortlisted candidates were interviewed by a selection panel who made recommendations to DCMS Ministers, who then made recommendations to the Queen through the Prime Minister. I am delighted that this rigorous open competition has resulted in the appointment of a very able and enthusiastic chairman who will help to ensure the BBC continues to thrive and adapt to new challenges in a changing environment.

I should also take this opportunity to express my tremendous gratitude to Dr. Chitra Bharucha who has, as acting chairman of the BBC, successfully overseen the launch of the new Trust. She will continue to support the Trust and its new chairman in her capacity as vice-chairman.

DEFENCE

Call-out Reservists (Balkans)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): A new call-out order has been made under section 56 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 so that reservists may continue to be called-out into permanent service to support military operations in the Balkans. The order took effect on 2 April 2007.

Some 190 reservists were mobilised during the 12-month period ending 31 March 2007. Although the number of UK personnel in the Balkans is reducing, we expect to continue to call-out reservists to support operations in that theatre.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mine Action Policy

The Secretary of State for International Development (Hilary Benn): On 4 April, the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, I announced that the UK will commit £30 million to mine action over the next three years.

It is now eight years since the UK ratified the Mine Ban Treaty (the Ottawa convention). Since 2001 the Department for International Development has contributed at least £10 million per year on global mine action. Much has been achieved by the international community during this period: mine casualties continue to decline;

there is virtually no trading of anti-personnel mines anywhere in the world; over 30 million stockpiled anti-personnel mines have been destroyed; and large areas of land have been cleared of mines and rendered productive again. The UK has made a significant contribution to this in a number of badly affected countries. For example, since 2002 DFID has spent over £6.5 million on demining projects in Afghanistan; during that time the number of casualties has more than halved. Similarly DFID has provided over £2 million in Cambodia where the number of casualties has dropped from over 1,500 per year in the early 1990s to under 500 in 2006. More recently, following the conflict in Lebanon last year, DFID provided over £2.5 million for rapid response to remove cluster bombs and other unexploded ordnance from residential and agricultural areas.

Despite this, there remains much to be done. Casualty rates in the worst affected countries remain unacceptably high, as does the social and economic impact. Many countries are still heavily dependent on the support of the international community to deal with mines that contaminate their land.

Over the next three years, we will focus our assistance on direct mine action, and building developing country capacity to carry out mine action while continuing to encourage countries to ratify the Ottawa convention. We will aim to reduce the impact of mines in developing countries through support to well established and effective demining organisations, and we will help mine affected countries develop the means to manage and deal with the remaining problems themselves.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Companies House Targets

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): I have set Companies House the following targets for the year 2007-08:

To ensure that Companies House Direct, WebCHeck and Web-Filing are available for 99 per cent. of the time between the hours of 7am and midnight, Monday to Saturday.

To achieve 55 per cent. take-up for electronic submission of documents by the end of 2007-08.

To achieve, on average, a monthly compliance rate for accounts submitted of 95.3 per cent.

To ensure that 99.5 per cent. of images placed on the Companies House image system are legible.

To achieve for 2007-08 a reduction, in real terms, of 10 per cent. compared to 2004-05 in the unit cost of the range of transactions covering registration, company search and active register size.

To achieve a score of more than 86 per cent. in each quarterly Companies House customer satisfaction survey.

To resolve 97 per cent. of complaints within five days.

To achieve, taking one year with another, a 3.5 per cent. average rate of return based on the operating surplus expressed as a percentage of average net assets.

To pay all bills within 30 days, or on other agreed credit terms, on receipt of goods or services or a valid invoice, whichever is later.

The chief executive to reply within 10 days to all letters from Members of Parliament delegated to him for reply.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 17 April 2007

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Mental Capacity Act

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Vera Baird): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, Baroness Ashton of Upholland, has made the following written ministerial statement:

"I have today laid before Parliament the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (Lasting Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Attorney and Public Guardian) Regulations 2007.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides a statutory framework for people who lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions. It sets out who can take decisions, in which situations, and how they should go about this. It also enables people to make provision for a time in the future when they may lack capacity to make some decisions including through the introduction of a new power of attorney called a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). LPAs will replace Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPA) as the main way in which someone can choose a decision maker to act on their behalf, particularly in the event of their loss of mental capacity.

These regulations set out the prescribed forms, supporting forms and other requirements necessary for the making and registration of LPAs and the registration of existing EPAs. They also make provision about the functions of the public guardian and the discharge of those functions.

A consultation process was held from 20 January to 14 April 2006 to seek views on the draft LPA forms, prescribed information and accompanying non-statutory guidance, as well as on the processes for certifying and registering LPAs. These regulations, and the forms contained within them, have been developed in light of the comments received during consultation".

DEFENCE

Military Repatriation Ceremonies

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): With effect from April 2007 for a period of two years, RAF Lyneham will be used as the primary location for military repatriation ceremonies instead of RAF Brize Norton.

In the event of fatalities resulting from service personnel killed in operational theatres, a repatriation ceremony is held to mark the return to the United Kingdom which family members of the deceased normally attend. With effect from April 2007, work is commencing at RAF Brize Norton to extend the aircraft servicing platform, (the areas of hard-standing around the airfield that are used for aircraft parking). Given the disruptive nature of the work, it will be very difficult to hold a dignified ceremony at the station. Moreover, it would also be very costly to the public purse to temporarily suspend work each time a repatriation ceremony is due to take place. This work is expected to take up to two years until April 2009.

The transfer of repatriations from RAF Brize Norton to RAF Lyneham means that the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner will have initial jurisdiction instead of the Oxfordshire coroner throughout the period of these works. We are confident that the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner has the necessary resources to take on this workload and he already has considerable expertise in handling military inquests in consequence of the presence of RAF Lyneham in his jurisdiction as well as Wiltshire being regularly used for military exercises. In addition, the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner is also expected to transfer jurisdiction wherever possible to other coroners—normally to the jurisdiction of the next of kin—following the recent practice of the Oxfordshire coroner.

TRANSPORT

Gatwick Express

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport announced, on 4 April 2007, the results of the recent consultation on the implementation of the Brighton Main Line (BML) Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS). I would like to take this opportunity to inform Parliament of the announcement.

The key conclusion is that the Gatwick Express will be retained as a non-stop service between Gatwick airport and London Victoria every 15 minutes. In addition, at the busiest times of day, the service will also run beyond Gatwick to Brighton, doubling the number of express trains between Brighton and London Victoria in the high peak. Unused carriages will be taken from storage and reconditioned to provide the extra trains. At least two extra trains will also run between Redhill and London in the peak. These changes will provide more than 3,700 seats into and out of London at the busiest times.

To facilitate this change, the existing Gatwick Express franchise will be ended in May 2008 to allow the creation of a new franchise that will include both the Gatwick Express and Southern services. The new Gatwick Express service will begin in December 2008 under the same branding and with the same frequency to and from the airport. Luggage storage will continue to be provided to accommodate the needs of airport passengers.

A stakeholder briefing document, giving summaries of the responses made by stakeholders to the consultation, and outlining how the key decisions were reached, was also published on 4 April 2007. This document has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be downloaded from the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/brightonmainlinerusconsultation/briefingdocument

This is the finalisation of the last of the RUSs that were started by the Strategic Rail Authority. All future RUSs, which are designed to show how the best use may be made of existing network capacity and to assess whether the available capacity can meet medium-term demand, will be led and published by Network Rail.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 18 April 2007

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Freedom of Information Act

The Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Ms Harriet Harman): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Baroness Ashton of Upholland, has made the following written ministerial statement:

"Today I have deposited copies of "The Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Statistics on Implementation in Central Government: October to December 2006" in the Libraries of both Houses. This is the eighth quarterly bulletin produced by the DCA monitoring the performance of central Government and associated bodies under the Freedom of Information Act 2000".

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): The Justice and Home Affairs Council will be held on 19-20 April 2007 in Luxembourg. The Attorney-General, Baroness Ashton (DCA), the Lord Advocate of Scotland, and I will represent the UK.

Four items in the field of civil legal co-operation feature on the agenda. The first is choice of law in divorce (Rome III). The UK did not opt in to this proposal under the terms of the Title IV protocol because of legal and practical issues relating to application of foreign law in this sensitive area. The presidency intends to seek agreement to various "guidelines" concerning the future of these negotiations. We understand a number of other member states have serious misgivings about this proposal as a whole.

On the proposed regulation on maintenance obligations, the presidency has tabled a paper proposing, among other things, arrangements under which member states could continue to make bilateral agreements with third countries notwithstanding the position as regards external community competence in this area. The Government support the overall aim but see no need for any cumbersome arrangements. The Government did not opt in to this proposal largely because of concerns about its potential impact on external bilateral and multilateral agreements.

On choice of law in contracts (Rome I) the presidency is bringing forward an uncontentious package of "guidelines" for agreement. The Government did not opt in to this proposal because of the likely economic impact of certain changes it would, as drafted, import to the 1980 Rome convention on the law applicable to contractual obligations. The contents of the presidency's package does not address key UK points which need to be resolved if the UK is to accept the measure. Those issues remain on the table for discussion at a future date.

The presidency has circulated a paper concerning the purpose, content and scope of the Common Frame of Reference (CFR) in European contract law. Among other things, the presidency wishes to confirm the status of the CFR as a "toolbox" for the European legislator. The Government welcome the general direction taken by the presidency's paper.

The presidency is expected to seek to reach a general approach on the framework decision on racism and xenophobia. The revised text addresses longstanding UK concerns. In particular it now focuses on combating more serious forms of racism and xenophobia through the criminal law and does not require member states to criminalise conduct that does not incite violence or hatred and is not carried out in a threatening, abusive or insulting manner. The text does not require the UK to amend our criminal law or create new offences. There is no longer a provision on mutual legal assistance, instead the usual EU rules will apply to requests for evidence in relation to these crimes. The Government have explained to the presidency that this remains subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

There will be discussion of the scope of the framework decision on certain procedural rights in criminal proceedings. The presidency will seek support for a binding instrument with a broad scope, covering all domestic and cross-border proceedings. The UK cannot support a binding instrument that applies to domestic cases and has tabled (with five other member states) a wide-ranging non-binding resolution on practical measures. We have said that we could accept a compromise package including a binding measure clearly limited to some cross-border cases accompanied by the resolution.

The presidency will provide a report on negotiations on the Council decision on the Future of Europol. They will outline the progress of discussions so far and will highlight that they hope to achieve agreement on the funding arrangements and staff regulations at the June Council. On the evidence available thus far the UK is yet to be persuaded that there are sufficient benefits to warrant the application of community financing and EC staff regulations.

The Commission will table a report on fighting the pull factors of illegal migration focusing on illegal employment, which will form the basis of the draft directive on illegal employment, which is due to be presented in May. The EU Commission has recently undertaken a survey of member states' measures to tackle illegal employment, within the framework of the Immigration and Asylum Committee. Views among member states do vary, with some seeking the ability to use both administrative and penal sanctions, others recommending the use of one, either penal or administrative, some in favour of a non-binding EU recommendation rather than a directive, and some recommending protective measures for illegally employed third-country nationals who wish to co-operate with the authorities. In its

wide-ranging policy plan on illegal migration, which the JHA Council discussed in July 2006, the Commission noted with regard to illegal employment that the main priority should be the adoption of measures on employers' checks and certain penalties for employers by those member states who have not already taken such action, and effective implementation of these measures by all member states.

There will be an information point on progress with regards the forthcoming communications on extending the global approach to migration to the east and south-east, and on better organising legal movements of people between the European Union and third countries. The UK is committed to the development of the global approach to the east and south-east border land countries, although this should be done without reducing the work we are doing with Africa.

In the mixed committee format there will be discussion on the Schengen Information System, Frontex, the Data Protection Framework Decision and the Visa Information System.

There will be an update on the state of play of the SISone4all project, the network and of SIS II. SISone4all remains important to the new member states and they are keen to keep abreast of developments in terms of implementation. They are also interested in having regular ministerial discussions on SIS, to ensure it remains a Council priority, so the presidency has agreed to schedule discussion at this Council.

The presidency will update on the approval by the European Parliament (EP) Civil Liberties Committee (LIBE) of the draft Rapid Border Intervention Teams (RABITs) Regulation on 11 April, plans for the EP first reading plenary vote on 25 April and we expect adoption of the measure at the Council in June. While the UK is excluded from the RABITs Regulation (subject to the outcome of our current challenge before the European Court of Justice on exclusion from the Frontex Regulation which the RABITs Regulation in part amends) we would like UK immigration officers to be able to form part of the rapid pool for RABITs, and to take part in RABITs on a case by case basis, at the UK's request and with the agreement of the management board of Frontex. To this end the UK has proposed a Council declaration, to be added to the protocols when the measure is adopted at the June Council, repeating the UK's support for Frontex, highlighting the participation of the UK in Frontex activities, and inviting the agency and its management board to explore ways in which the UK can likewise practically support the operations of RABITs.

The Commission and Frontex will update on progress to establish a centralised register of member states' technical equipment (tool box), as provided for in the Frontex Regulation, to which member states are willing to donate for a temporary period, on a voluntary basis and upon request from another member state, to ensure that Frontex has the necessary means available to carry out effective joint operations. While the UK is not bound by the provisions of the Frontex Regulation we have nevertheless made available to Frontex certain new detection technology and forgery detection equipment for use in land border checks.

The Commission and Frontex will also provide an update on measures to reinforce the monitoring and surveillance of the southern maritime border of the EU through a European Surveillance System and European Patrol Network (EPN). There is likely to be some discussion on the initial EPN operation areas and clarity is still required on the remit of patrols (for example, in whose waters) and what obligations and operational requirements adhere to each. The UK is supportive of these efforts to co-ordinate activity to deal with the challenges of illegal seaborne migration at the southern EU border. As it is for Frontex and the Southern member states to reach agreement on exactly what they need to strengthen their border management in this region, our involvement has so far been in an observational capacity only.

The draft Council decision concerning access to the Visa Information System (VIS) for law enforcement purposes is also included on the agenda and the presidency will update the Council on progress. The presidency is keen to agree and adopt the Council decision at the June Council. It will present an updated Council decision which will allow for the text to be agreed without the UK and Ireland initially but with a declaration to return to the issue once the outcome of an ECJ case is available. We will reaffirm our position that the UK and Ireland should have access to the database.

The presidency will also report back to the Council on the outcome of the trilogue with the European Parliament and the Commission on 28 March with regard to the VIS Regulation. The UK does not participate in the Regulation.

Finally, I expect the presidency to circulate a council position on an EU response to the Iraqi refugee situation. This is likely to include a commitment to solidarity with those member states—in particular Sweden—under pressure (through technical support), a call on the Commission to analyse current statistics and grant rates in EU member states, plus a call for member states to step up resettlement of displaced Iraqis. The UK is in discussion with the UNHCR to explore ways in which the UK might be able to respond, within its existing Gateway resettlement programme, to the UNHCR's call to assist with the resettlement of displaced Iraqis.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Discretionary Social Fund

The Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office (Mr. David Hanson): I am pleased to announce that the Northern Ireland Discretionary Social Fund budget for 2007-08 will be £64.57 million; £13.62 million will be allocated to grants; £50.85 million to loans and £0.1 million will be held as a contingency reserve. The total gross budget is made up of Net Social Fund Provision from the Treasury of £20.99 million plus the amount of forecast loan recoveries for 2007-08, £43.58 million.

Details of the budget allocations together with a note explaining the basis on which they have been made, have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 19 April 2007

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Pro Bono Cases (Cost Recovery)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Vera Baird): My right hon. friend the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor has made the following ministerial statement:

"The Department for Constitutional Affairs has published a consultation paper "Cost Recovery in Pro Bono Cases" on proposals for secondary legislation to implement the provisions provided for by clause 185 of the Legal Services Bill—payments in respect of representation provided pro bono. The consultation paper was published on 16 April 2007 and will run for 12 weeks. Closing date is 9 July 2007.

The Legal Services Bill (HL) published in November 2006 is currently before Parliament. Clause 185 (in part 8 of the Bill—Miscellaneous Provisions About Lawyers) is designed to amend civil costs law to enable costs to be recovered in cases where legal representation was provided 'pro bono'.

Pro bono work provides a valuable adjunct to the other forms of legal funding. This proposal will enable costs to be recovered in civil pro bono cases and will help level what has up to now been an uneven costs playing field. Cost orders will be made at the discretion of the courts and when made will be directed to a prescribed charity that will administer and distribute the monies to provide additional legal help and advice for those not otherwise able to afford it.

This initiative is supported by the Attorney-General's Pro Bono Co-ordinating Committee. The Committee was established in 2001 to promote and encourage the ethos of pro bono in the legal professions. Its members include representatives of the Bar, the Law Society, ILEX, the major pro bono organisations (including LawWorks and the Free Representational Unit) and the not for profit sector (including Citizens Advice, the Law Centres Federation and AdviceUK)".

DEFENCE

Iraqi Control (Maysan Province)

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): The formal transfer of responsibility for security from UK military forces to the Iraq civil authorities in Maysan province took place yesterday. The decision to transfer to provincial Iraqi control was taken by the Iraqi Government in close consultation with the coalition, based on a thorough assessment of the local security situation and the capability of the Iraqi security forces in the province. Maysan is the fourth of Iraq's 18 provinces to be handed over to Iraqi control, and the third of the four within the UK's area of operations in Multi-National Division (South East) (MND(SE)).

This is another important milestone that demonstrates the continuing progress in building Iraq's political institutions and security capacity. It underlines the progress made by the UK forces and our partners in MND(SE) and the growing maturity of the Iraqi security forces. Establishing provincial Iraqi control does not guarantee Maysan is a benign environment in security terms, or that future challenges may not arise, but it does mean the Iraq security forces are judged now to be able to respond effectively to those challenges themselves. The UK will continue to support them as they do so. Other provinces across Iraq will be transferred during 2007, including Basra province in MND (SE).

UK and coalition forces, which withdrew from fixed bases in Maysan province in August 2006, will continue training and mentoring the Iraqi security forces, particularly the Department of Border Enforcement, in order to improve border security. The Prime Minister's announcement on 21 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 261-66, that force levels will reduce to around 5,500 by June this year took into account the likely transfer of security responsibility in Maysan.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iran

The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells): On 24 March 2007, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1747, on Iran's nuclear programme. The Resolution was adopted by consensus, once again underlining that the international community is united and determined to see that Iran does not acquire the means to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran has not met its legal obligation in Security Council Resolutions 1696 (2006) and 1737 (2006) to suspend without further delay all enrichment related and reprocessing activities, and take the steps required by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors. Nor has it met the additional obligations in Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006) to suspend work on all heavy water related projects and provide such access and co-operation as the IAEA requests to verify suspension and resolve all outstanding issues.

The latest report by the IAEA Director-General, Dr Mohammed El-Baradei, on 22 February 2007, shows that Iran's co-operation with the Agency remains inadequate, and that far from suspending enrichment related activities, Iran has continued to expand its enrichment operation and press ahead with construction work at the Arak heavy water research reactor.

We have therefore had little choice but to pursue a further Security Council Resolution, which reaffirms the obligations imposed on Iran and adopts further appropriate measures to persuade Iran to comply with its obligations and meet the requirements of the IAEA.

The Resolution imposes sanctions under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which go further than the non-proliferation measures agreed in Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006). All UN member states have a legal obligation to comply, though not all measures are mandatory. The measures include:

A strengthening of the travel restrictions, so that states are called upon to exercise vigilance and restraint regarding the entry into or transit through their territory by designated individuals.

The designation of a number of new individuals subject to the travel restrictions and individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, including Bank Sepah and Bank Sepah International

Inclusion of a new sub-category for designating individuals and entities connected to the Iran Republican Guard Corps (IRGC)

A mandatory arms embargo on exports and procurement from Iran

Restrictions on the export to Iran of items included in the UN Conventional Arms Register

Restrictions on financial assistance to the Government of Iran

The EU intends to adopt a revised Common Position covering full and rigorous implementation of the measures contained in the Resolution at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 23 April.

The resolution requests the IAEA Director General to submit within 60 days a further report on Iranian compliance and affirms that the Security Council will adopt further appropriate measures under Article 41 of the UN Charter in the event that the report shows Iran has not complied with the terms of resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007).

A copy of the resolution is available on the UN website at www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_resolutions07.htm.

We remain committed to a negotiated solution that would address the international community's concerns. E3+3 Foreign Ministers issued a statement after the adoption of the resolution reconfirming that our June 2006 proposals, attached in Annex II to the resolution, remained on the table. I urge Iran to take the positive path on offer by meeting in full the requirements of the Security Council and the IAEA Board and beginning negotiations with the E3+3 on the basis of those proposals. As the adoption of Resolution 1747 demonstrates, that is the clear and united wish of the whole international community.

HEALTH

Venous Thromboembolism

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Ivan Lewis): In June 2005 we published the Government's response to the Second Report of the House of Commons Health Committee on the "Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism in Hospitals". At the same time we announced that an independent expert working group would be set up to make recommendations on developing a national strategy on the prevention and treatment of venous thromboembolism (VTE). The report and recommendations of the expert group were presented to the chief medical officer in July 2006.

We have given the expert group's recommendations thorough consideration and published the report today. The report has been placed in the Library.

It is clear from the expert group's report that introducing a VTE risk assessment for all patients on admission has the potential to save thousands of lives every year. We have therefore established an implementation working group which will develop a national risk assessment tool, and will also provide leadership both within the NHS and the wider healthcare sector in order to assess what needs to be done to ensure that a VTE risk assessment of every patient on admission to hospital becomes a reality.

Dental Treatment

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Caroline Flint): Given the national interest in vCJD and its implications for the health of the nation, I report a change in health care practice being announced today in a letter to all dentists in England from the Chief Dental Officer. His letter is about decontamination and reuse of instruments, especially those used in endodontic treatment. This letter reflects precautionary advice from the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee and early results of ongoing research indicating a potential risk of vCJD transmission associated with endodontic treatment.

The Chief Dental Officer advises that:

endodontic reamers and files are treated as single use;

the highest standards of decontamination are observed for all dental instruments; and

manufacturers' decontamination instructions are followed for all instruments, and where instruments are difficult to clean, single use instruments should be used wherever possible.

A copy of the Chief Dental Officer's letter has been placed in the Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 20 April 2007

TREASURY

Statistics Board

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (John Healey): The Statistics and Registration Service Bill, which is currently going through Parliament, will establish an independent statistics board that is outside ministerial control and reports to Parliament. The board will have statutory responsibilities to promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good, and the quality and comprehensiveness of those statistics.

To ensure that the funding arrangements for the new board reinforce statutory independence, the Government have taken the decision to set funding for the statistics board outside of the normal spending review process, and to guarantee the board funding certainty over a period of five years. The 2007 Budget announced the funding settlement of £1.2 billion over the next five years for the new statistics board. The settlement applies to the years 2007-08 to 2011-12 and provides planning and funding certainty for the development of the new board and the effective discharge of its remit from the intended establishment of the new system by spring 2008.

The Bill provides for the Government's intention that the board will be constituted by a majority of external, non-executive members selected through open competition. As I announced at Second Reading of the Bill, 8 Jan 2007, *Official Report*, column 35, the Government's aim is—

> "to have appointed a shadow chair, with appropriate support for that chair, before the start of the new system, so that many of the crucial aspects of planning for the implementation can be steered and led by that shadow chair. I hope that the appointment will be made during the course of this year."

Given the importance of having these non-executive positions filled at an early stage the Treasury is starting the recruitment process for the chair and non-executive directors of the new board.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £305,500 for this new body will be sought in the main estimate for the Treasury. However, no expenditure from within this voted provision will take place until Parliament has also approved the Statistics and Registration Service Bill. Pending that approval, this expenditure will be met by a repayable cash advance from the contingencies fund. This expenditure will be met from within the Treasury's existing budgetary provision and does not imply an increase in its Departmental expenditure limit.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Personal Injury Claims

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Vera Baird): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor has made the following written ministerial statement:

"I have today published a consultation paper "Case Track Limits and the Claims Process for Personal Injury Claims."

The paper reviews the case track limits for civil claims as provided for in part 26 of the civil procedure rules. It proposes that the fast track limit should be increased to £25,000, but that there should be no change to the small claims limits, including those for personal injury and housing disrepair claims.

The paper also considers ways to improve the claims process for personal injury cases to make it more timely, proportionate and cost-effective. It makes proposals for a new system based around the principles of early notification of a claim, early admissions of liability, the removal of duplication of work, fixed time periods and fixed recoverable costs.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be obtained free on the Department's website at http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/conft.htm#full The closing date for consultation is 13 July 2007."

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 23 April in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

External Relations

World Trade Organisation/Doha Development Round

The Commission is expected to update the Council on its latest contacts, including the G4 ministerial in New Delhi.

Bilateral Mandates for Negotiations of Free Trade Agreements and Association Agreements

The Council is expected to agree mandates for the Commission to negotiate free trade agreements with the ASEAN countries, India and South Korea and Association agreements with the Central Americas and Community of Andean Nations.

Gulf Cooperation Council

Commissioner Mandelson is expected to brief the Council on progress on negotiations between the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council on a free trade agreement.

EU-US Summit

The presidency is expected to brief the Council on preparations for the EU-US summit on 30 April including plans for a declaration covering political, economic and climate change issues. The Government support the presidency's objectives for the summit,

particularly its desire to move transatlantic cooperation on economic and climate security issues forward.

Sudan

The Council is expected to discuss recent developments in Sudan and will be briefed by UN Special Envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson. Although the Government of Sudan have now accepted the second phase of the UN support for the African Union peacekeeping force, they have yet to accept the third phase, a hybrid African Union/UN force. The Government want the EU to maintain pressure on Khartoum to accept the full African Union/UN peacekeeping force as well as the ceasefire and reinvigorated political process agreed in Addis Ababa last November.

Zimbabwe

The Council is expected to discuss the situation in Zimbabwe and adopt conclusions that the Government will argue should condemn recent and ongoing human rights abuses and extend the EU's visa ban list in response while welcoming the commitment of the Southern African Development Community to engage in efforts to resolve the crisis in Zimbabwe.

Somalia

The Council is expected to discuss the situation in Somalia and adopt conclusions expressing concern about the recent violence in Somalia and stressing the importance of implementing the UNSCR 1744 in addressing the political, security and humanitarian challenges in Somalia. The Government will stress the need for the EU to continue to work for full implementation of UNSCR 1744, particularly for the National Reconciliation Congress in Mogadishu to convene as soon as possible and for the rapid deployment of further elements of the African Union's mission to Somalia.

Central Asia

The Council is expected to discuss the presidency's plans for an EU Central Asia strategy and agree conclusions noting the second round of EU-Uzbekistan expert talks on Andizhan and the decision to establish a regular, results-orientated human rights dialogue with Uzbekistan.

The Government support the presidency's plans to increase engagement in the region, which it will want to ensure reflects the EU's human rights concerns.

Iran

The Council is expected to agree a common position implementing UNSCR 1747. The Government will underline Iran's lack of progress against United Nations Security Council, International Atomic Energy Agency and EU benchmarks and the consequent need to maintain international pressure, which is beginning to prompt debate within the regime.

The high representative for the common foreign and security policy Javier Solana, is likely to brief the Council on contacts with Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, as part of the EU's agreed twin track approach.

Western Balkans

The presidency is expected to update the Council on the situation in the western Balkans.

The February Council conclusions set out the EU's support for former President Ahtisaari's proposals on Kosovo's status and make the restart of stabilisation and association agreement talks with Serbia conditional upon concrete action by a new Serb Government on co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The Government fully support this position.

Middle East Peace Process

The Council is expected to welcome the Arab League Peace Initiative and to extend the temporary international mechanism for support to the Palestinians for three months while setting out that the EU's long-term goal is to resume direct budgetary assistance once there is a Palestinian Government whose policy and actions reflect the three Quartet principles. The Council should also highlight the importance of building the capacity of Palestinian institutions, a position the Government support as essential in achieving success in political negotiations.

International Moratorium on the Death Penalty

Italy has asked to discuss EU action to promote a global moratorium and eventual abolition of the death penalty. The Government fully support this important EU objective.

HEALTH

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Caroline Flint): I have received the business plan for the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) which has been placed in the Library.

The agency has an important role to protect public health in the United Kingdom by ensuring that all medicines and medical devices in the UK work and are acceptably safe. The business plan for 2007-08 sets out specific key and high level targets for the agency for the coming year.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 23 April 2007

TREASURY

The Economy

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): I am delighted that Kate Barker has accepted my invitation to serve for a further three years as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Mental Capacity Act 2005 (Code of Practice)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Vera Baird): My right hon. and noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs, Baroness Ashton of Upholland, has made the following written ministerial statement:

"My noble and learned Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor has today issued the Mental Capacity Act 2005 Code of Practice. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

In accordance with Section 43 of the Act, the Code was laid in draft before both Houses of Parliament on 23 February 2007 for a period of 40 days. That period has now elapsed and today the Lord Chancellor has issued the Code in its final form.

The Act requires a range of people to 'have regard' to the Code, for example those acting in relation to a person lacking capacity in a paid or professional role. On 1 April 2007, those aspects of the Act relating to Independent Mental Capacity Advocates and the new criminal offence of ill-treatment or neglect came into force. Anyone who is required to have regard to the Code will need to have regard to it in relation to those matters from 23 April. All other provisions of the Act are due to come into force on 1 October 2007. Those with a duty to have regard to the Code will need to have regard to it for all other purposes from that date.

The Code of Practice will be a valuable source of information and guidance on the Mental Capacity Act and I am convinced that it will play an important role in shaping the way the Act is put into practice."

WORK AND PENSIONS

Households Below Average Income

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 - 2005-06" was published on 27 March 2007. After publication the production team found an error had occurred because incorrect population estimates were used to generate the dataset for 2005-06, upon which the publication was based.

Most of the key headline figures from the publication are unaffected by this error. Looking at the measures of relative poverty, correcting the error has had no impact on reported child poverty for 2005-06. However, the revised figures do see an increase in reported poverty among working age adults, which is seen on both the "Before Housing Costs" and "After Housing Costs" measures. The revisions see both measures increase by an extra 100,000 under the rounding conventions, from 5.3 million to 5.4 million on the former basis and from 7.1 million to 7.2 million on the latter basis. Furthermore, although the revisions have no impact on the reported level of relative pensioner poverty, the rounding conventions we use now mean that we no longer see a change in measured pensioner poverty between 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Looking at measures of absolute poverty, the correction of the error has similar effects as on the measures of relative poverty, with no increase in reported measures of child poverty or pensioner poverty and a small increase in reported poverty among working age adults.

Key headline results for the number of households in relative and absolute poverty, including changes as a result of the revisions, are being placed in the House Libraries. These revisions have been quality assured and verified by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

The error does require reproduction of all the statistics and the re-release of the report. The changes to the HBAI statistics also affect other DWP publications, specifically "Pension Credit estimates of Take-up 2005-06", and "The Pensioners' Income Series 2005-06" but both to a minor extent, either in terms of the number of tables affected, or the extent of the change.

We anticipate the full set of statistics to be completed by the first half of May. We will announce a release date through the National Statistical website, in line with National Statistics protocols.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 24 April 2007

DEFENCE

Iraq

The Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne): I am pleased to announce that UK forces will today recommence boarding operations in the Gulf that were suspended following the seizure of Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel by the Iranians on 23 March 2007.

Pending the results of the inquiries set up to identify any lessons we can learn from this incident, we have taken measures, in line with the findings of initial reviews of procedures, to ensure the risk to boarding operations is minimised. This will involve an incremental return to full boarding operations in all areas. This approach in no way affects overall coalition naval operations in the Gulf.

As I announced to the House on Monday 16 April, *Official Report*, columns 23-26, there will be two inquiries, aimed at learning lessons from the events surrounding the seizure of RN personnel.

First, the Chief of the Defence Staff has initiated an inquiry into the operational circumstances, consequences and implications of the apprehension by Iranians of the 15 Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel from HMS Cornwall. The inquiry will be led by Lieutenant-General Sir Rob Fulton RM (Retd), currently the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar.

The terms of reference of the inquiry are to establish the circumstances and to examine the policy, strategy and operational frameworks within which boardings were conducted and the way that these were given effect through coalition command and control arrangements. The inquiry will cover the risk and threat assessment, strategic and operational planning, tactical decisions, rules of engagement, training, equipment and resources. The Chief of the Defence Staff has also directed General Fulton to consider specific operational issues, the details of which remain classified. This inquiry is due to report in May 2007.

Secondly, I have asked a small team to conduct a review of media access to individual personnel involved in operations, particularly in such high-profile incidents. This review will draw on all relevant experience, including recent incidents and other high-profile incidents; consider how best to manage the complex issues at play, including in balancing our responsibilities to support our people and their families, to safeguard the security of our people and operations, to protect the reputation of the Services, and to meet the requirements of transparency in a demanding media environment; identify lessons and make recommendations for any necessary changes in policy, regulations, processes and practice, including in relation to media payments to our personnel.

The review team will be led by Tony Hall, the Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House and formerly the BBC's Director of News and Current Affairs, who is also a non-executive member of the Board of Channel 4. He is well qualified to lead this work. The other members will be Patrick Turner, a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Defence, and Major-General Andrew Stewart, Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Policy) in the Ministry of Defence. I expect this work to report in a broadly similar time-frame.

PRIME MINISTER

Committee on Standards in Public Life

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Rita Donaghy CBE as Interim Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life with effect from 26 April 2007, following the end of Sir. Alistair Graham's term of appointment. Rita has been a member of the Committee since 1 March 2001.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 25 April 2007

DEFENCE

Cyprus

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): A new call-out order has been made under Section 56 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable members of the reserve forces to be called out into permanent service and deployed to Cyprus as part of the UK's contribution to the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP). It is planned for the first group of reservists to commence six-month operational tours in October 2007; the exact number involved has yet to be determined but is expected to be about 120. Subsequent groups may vary in size but in all cases the reservists will relieve the corresponding number of regular soldiers involved with UNFICYP to be deployed to other commitments. We envisage that the majority of reservists will come from TA artillery and engineer regiments as these units have a lower proportion of members with recent operational experience. The call-out order has effect until 30 April 2008.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Construction Industry Training Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Maria Eagle): I am pleased to announce the publication of the Construction Industry Training Board Annual Report and Accounts for the 2005-06 financial year.

This document is now available in the Library.

Independent Monitoring Commission

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): I have received the Fifteenth Report of the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC). This report has been made under Articles 4 and 7 of the International Agreement that established the Commission and it reports on levels of paramilitary activity in Northern Ireland. I have considered the content of the Report and I am today bringing it before Parliament. I have placed copies in the Library of the House.

The report reaffirms the IRA's continuing commitment to a political path. The IMC welcomes the decision of the Sinn Fein Ard Fheis to support policing as

> "clear evidence of the commitment, efforts and clearly expressed decisions of the leadership of the movement as a whole to pursue the political path and of their effective management of the strategy"

At a practical level, there were a number of instances in which republicans had co-operated with the PSNI, giving further evidence that this commitment to support policing and the rule of law goes beyond words. The IMC concludes that there is no threat to the leadership's strategy from any dissenting opinion within the mainstream Republican movement.

However, the threat from dissident republicans remains. Despite some notable successes by the police North and South, these groups are ruthless and dangerous, and their intent to cause harm and destruction is undiminished. They will not, however, deter us from achieving political progress and long-term stability.

On loyalism, the picture is mixed. Violence and criminal activity continue and the pace of change has been slow. The report sends out a strong message to loyalists: they cannot make any argument for paramilitary activity and the retention of weapons. The IMC recognises the efforts of the loyalist leadership and welcomes initiatives in support of community development. However, the time has come to

> "move beyond intentions and words to action which is overt and has an identifiable practical impact on the ground".

The Government firmly endorse this message. Society is changing rapidly: there can be no place for violence and gangsterism in this modern, prosperous society. Mainstream republicanism has recognized the changing course of history and taken major steps in response. The last hurdles to political settlement have been overcome and devolved Government will be restored on 8 May following the landmark agreement between the DUP and Sinn Fein to share power together. This is something many people never thought they would see in their lifetimes.

Loyalist paramilitaries must catch up with these transformations before the moment is lost. The onus is now on them to put words into action, place the interests of their communities first and seize this opportunity to secure a peaceful and prosperous future.

Once again, I am grateful to the Commission for its submission of this Report and for its careful analysis. The report offers a clear picture of both the extraordinary progress made and the challenges ahead to secure an end to paramilitarism in Northern Ireland.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 26 April 2007

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Prison Service Corporate and Business Plan 2007-2010

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Paul Goggins): I have placed copies of the Northern Ireland Prison Service's Corporate and Business Plan for 2007-2010 in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Corporate and Business Plan contains Key Performance Targets I have set for the Service for 2007-08. These are:

1. No escape for top and high-risk prisoners.

2. No more than three escapes per 1000 medium and low risk prisoners.

3. The number of staff assaulted by prisoners is less than a ratio of three per 100 prisoners.

4. The number of prisoners assaulted by prisoners is less than a ratio of four per 100 prisoners.

5. An average of at least 20 hours constructive activity per week for each sentenced prisoner.

6. An average of at least 10 hours constructive activity per week for each remand prisoner.

7. To ensure 87 per cent. of prisoners serving six months or more are working to a resettlement plan and that 97 per cent. of lifers work to a life sentence plan, including preparation of the plan, within the first six months of sentence.

8. Each member of staff should receive an average of five training days.

9. Reduce the rate of absenteeism to 13 days per head by 2007-08 with an overall reduction to 11 days by 2009-10.

10. Lay the Annual Report and Audited Accounts before Parliament prior to the summer recess.

11. Ensure the average cost per prisoner place does not exceed £82,500.

Northern Ireland Health and Social Services Estates Agency (Health Estates) (Performance Targets) (2007-08)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Paul Goggins): The targets, which have been set for 2007-08, are based on the strategic aim and objectives of the Agency as set out in Section 4 of its Corporate and Business Plan. The targets are in line with the Department's policy of seeking to improve the service provided to the Agency's clients in terms of both quality and value for money and I am satisfied that they present a demanding challenge for the Agency. A copy of the Corporate and Business Plan will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The targets are as follows:

Quality Targets

1. A total of 95 per cent. of the service provided by the Agency's Client Support staff to external clients to be regarded as satisfactory, of which 35 per cent. of the service to be regarded as either very good or excellent.

2. A total of 95 per cent. of the service provided by the Agency's Project Management staff to external clients to be regarded as satisfactory, of which 35 per cent. of the service to be regarded as either very good or excellent.

3. A total of 95 per cent. of the service provided by the Agency's Specialist Engineering staff to external clients to be regarded as satisfactory, of which 35 per cent. of the service to be regarded as either very good or excellent.

Throughput/Service Delivery Targets

4. Issue all Medical Device/Equipment Alerts with an Immediate Action level of urgency designated initiated by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) within three working days on receipt of final MHRA Alert (provided that no further consultation is involved).

5. Issue all Medical Device/Equipment Alerts with an "Action" level of urgency designation initiated by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) within five working days on receipt of final MHRA Alert (provided that no further consultation is involved).

6. Issue a High Voltage Alert within four working days from receipt and assessment of an applicable Electricity Network Association Notice or other safety information in relation to High Voltage equipment installed in the HPSS.

7. Complete a review of HPSS Catering Operations by November 2007 and take forward the development of a HPSS Catering Strategy by March 2008.

8. Complete an assessment of the HPSS position against "Essence of Care" in regard to the Council of Europe Statement on hospital food nutrition by 30 November 2007 and lead the exploration of appropriate initiatives to improve nutritional standards by 31 March 2008.

9. Develop a regional strategy for laundry and linen services by 30 November 2007.

10. Publish a Carbon and Energy Savings Strategy in the Health and Personal Social Services Estate by 31 March 2008.

Resource and Financial Management Targets

11. Ensure the Agency meets its commitment to "Fit for Purpose" and DRC reductions and its target of a reduction of 19 posts by 31 March 2008.

12. Ensure that the Agency lives within its running cost allocation for the year.

13. Demonstrate that the full costs of the Agency are recouped, on a notional basis, through the Service Level Agreement with the Department.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Secretaries/Joint Intelligence Committee (Official Histories)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): I have appointed Ian Beesley to write the official history of the Secretaries to the Cabinet. I have also appointed Dr. Michael Goodman to write the official history of the Joint Intelligence Committee.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

"UK Airports" Office of Fair Trading Report

The Minister for Trade (Mr. Ian McCartney): We welcomed this Office of Fair Trading (OFT) report, which was published on 12 December 2006. As part of their statutory role, the OFT actively investigates markets that do not appear to be meeting the needs of consumers and publishes the results of these inquiries. Market studies are undertaken in areas where there are concerns that a particular market is not working well for consumers but where competition or consumer regulation enforcement action does not appear, immediately, to be the appropriate response.

While we note that the focus of the report is related to the functions of the independent competition authorities, we recognise the value of an early response to the three particular issued aimed at Government, namely:

Government should publish criteria for de-designation of airports.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) should advise the Department for Transport (DfT) whether to de-designate Manchester airport before the statutory price control reference to the Competition Commission (CC) is due.

Government should consider transferring decisions on designation to the CAA.

These recommendations are fully in line with Government policy that regulation should only be necessary when a competitive environment cannot deliver benefits to consumers. The DfT published a consultation document on the de-designation criteria on 26 February 2007 and once the outcome of this is known, they will undertake a further consultation on the de-designation of Manchester and Stansted airports. However, we believe it would be premature to consider transfer of decisions on designation to the CAA in advance of a reference by OFT of the supply of airport services to the CC—which OFT also announced it proposed to do in its report. The airport services market could be significantly altered by the outcome of such a reference.

The full Government action plan copies of OFT's report will be placed in the Members' Library. In preparing this response, we have worked closely with the relevant Government Departments, in particular the Department for Transport, which is responsible for policy on airports in the UK.

Post Mortem Procedures (Nuclear Industry)

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Alistair Darling): Further to my statement to the House on Wednesday 18 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 301-02, I am now able to announce the terms of reference for the inquiry that I have asked Mr. Michael Redfern QC to carry out. They are as follows.

(a) Having regard to the provisions of the Human Tissue Act 1961, the Coroners' Rules 1984, the Coroners' Act 1988 and predecessor legislation, to inquire into the circumstances in which, between 1961 and 1992, organs/tissue were removed from 65 individuals, and were sent to and analysed at Sellafield.

(b) In particular, to establish so far as practicable:

(i) when, where, by whom and by what means the taking of organs/tissue was requested and authorised;

(ii) whether the taking of organs/tissue was based on informed consent by the family and/or surviving relatives;

(iii) the purpose to be achieved by the retention and analysis of the organs/tissue removed; the generic results of analysis; and the identity of all publications in which the results were presented and commented upon;

(iv) whether the families or surviving relatives were informed of the results of the analysis, or the identity of the relevant publications;

(v) when and by whom the retention, storage, transportation, analysis, reporting and disposal of the organs/tissue was authorised;

(vi) the circumstances in which the organs/tissue were retained, stored, transported, analysed, reported upon and disposed of;

(vii) the general purpose to be served by such retention, storage, analysis and publication of the results;

(viii) when this activity ceased, and the circumstances in which it ceased.

(c) To consider such other issues in connection with the above matters as the Secretary of State may direct.

(d) To report to the Secretary of State as soon as possible.

(e) To make recommendations.

Since my statement to the House, the UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) and the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) have begun to examine their records to identify if tests on autopsy tissues were carried out at any of the sites for which they are, or have been responsible, other than Sellafield. The UKAEA tell me that they believe such work was carried out at Harwell, at least until the early 1980s, and possibly at other UKAEA sites, potentially involving work related to individuals who had not been employed at nuclear sites. The AWE believes that there could have been additional testing on their employees. In light of this information, and in line with what I told the House last week, I have therefore asked Michael Redfern QC to make this additional information part of his considerations.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 27 April 2007

DEFENCE

Board of Inquiry (Loss of Lynx XZ614)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): I am announcing today the findings of a Board of Inquiry (BOI) into the tragic incident in Basra, Iraq on 6 May 2006 when a Lynx helicopter based at Basra Air Station crashed, killing all five of its occupants—Wing Commander Coxen, Lieutenant Commander Chapman, Flight Lieutenant Mulvihill, Captain Dobson and Marine Collins. I pay tribute to them, and to the brave men and women of our armed forces, who continue to face hostile conditions on a daily basis. Our thoughts are with all their families and friends.

I will arrange for copies of the Military Air Accident Summary and the Main Board of Inquiry, redacted in accordance with guidance on the Freedom of Information Act and the Data Protection Act, to be placed in the Library of the House. Both documents will also be published on the MOD website at www.foi.mod.uk

The key conclusion of the BOI is that the Lynx was shot down by a surface-to-air missile using a Man Portable Air Defence System fired from the ground. The next of kin have been informed of the Board's conclusions and have been presented with copies of the relevant documentation. This information has also been provided to the Oxfordshire Assistant Deputy Coroner who is scheduled to hear the inquest into the deaths of these Service Personnel.

The BOI made seven recommendations. Action has been taken to implement all of the Board's recommendations and those arising from the subsequent Technical Investigation, details of which I am not making public in order to protect the security and operational effectiveness of our armed forces.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (Performance Targets for 2007-08)

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I have set the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) the following Performance Targets for 2007-08.

1. To authorise veterinary medicines according to legislative requirements and published standards and monitor reports of suspected adverse reactions to identify emerging trends and take appropriate action.

2. To ensure that UK policy objectives are reflected in EC legislation and guidance and that UK legislation and guidance enables veterinary medicines to be used responsibly, effectively and safely.

3. To ensure the regulatory system is effective and contributes to protecting public health by taking risk-based action on the findings from surveillance of residues in food-producing animals.

4. To ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is in place to achieve targets 1, 2 and 3 and provide value for money and VMD achieves full cost recovery.

Further details are given in the VMD Business Plan for 2007-08, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

HEALTH

Medical Training Application Service

The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt): The Department has been made aware of an incident on 25 April, whereby personal data held on the Medical Training Application Service (MTAS) was made available through unauthorised channels.

The security breach concerned the application details of medical students applying to the foundation programme. This breach had no impact on the current recruitment of junior doctors into specialty training. The data was accessible only for a short period of time on 25 April. Details of the website address were leaked to the media. The MTAS team removed the data as soon as the error was brought to their attention. The Department, of course, deplores such leaks.

On 26 April the Department was made aware of some problems on the MTAS site. We have therefore decided to suspend the site while we perform full independent security tests. We expect the suspension to have minimal impact on the current round of recruitment into specialty training.

We take security very seriously and the breaches are under urgent investigation by the Department. This investigation will seek to establish how the security breaches arose, who accessed any data without authorisation and what steps need to be taken to prevent a recurrence.

I will keep the House updated on further developments.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Government Chemist Review (2006)

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Malcolm Wicks): The 10th Annual Review of the Government Chemist has been received. The Review will be laid before the Scottish Parliament and copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses plus those of the devolved Administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 30 April 2007

TREASURY

Financial Services Authority

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): I have laid before both Houses of Parliament a report into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the Financial Services Authority (FSA) has used its resources, when discharging its statutory functions. This review was undertaken by the National Audit Office and is the first to be carried out under section 12 of the Financial Services and Markets Act—the Act that established the FSA, five years ago.

The remit of the review—which was arrived at following consultation with key stakeholders of the FSA—addresses five broad areas of the authority's work:

internal performance management;
external joint-working within the UK;
influencing and representation internationally;
financial crime; and
financial capability.

Copies of the report are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Mental Capacity Act 2005 (Fees for Court of Protection and the Office of the Public Guardian)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Vera Baird): My right hon. and noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, Baroness Ashton of Upholland, has made the following written ministerial statement.

"Today the Government are publishing the Government response to the consultation on the fees for the new Court of Protection and the Office of the Public Guardian both established under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The consultation ended on 29 November 2006 and 65 responses were received. The consultation response provides a summary of responses and the next steps in light of the consultation. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The new Court of Protection will have jurisdiction to deal with decision-making for adults who lack capacity. The new statutory Office of the Public Guardian will maintain registers of deputies and attorneys, supervise deputies in their duties and deal with representations about the way attorneys and deputies are exercising their powers".

DEFENCE

MOD Contracts

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): The Ministry of Defence has agreed to lower the threshold for the advertising of MOD contracts. This will give greater encouragement to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to enter MOD business and is designed to further enhance the visibility and transparency of the UK defence equipment market.

Currently "non-warlike" requirements valued in excess of £93,000 are advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and the MOD Defence Contracts Bulletin. "Warlike" requirements are only advertised in the bulletin if their value exceeds £500,000. In addition to this, "warlike" requirements exceeding £685,000 (€1 million) are advertised on the European Defence Agency's Electronic Bulletin Board.

The changes to this will be phased in. On 30 April 2007, the threshold for "warlike" requirements will be lowered to £93,000. On 30 June 2007, this threshold will be lowered once more to £40,000. The threshold for "non-warlike" requirements will also be reduced to £40,000 on 30 June 2007. Furthermore, from 30 June, MOD project teams will be encouraged to consider advertising requirements with values as low as £20,000. This change could generate up to 7,000 additional adverts a year.

In line with one of the key themes of the defence industrial strategy, this is one of a range of initiatives aimed at making the MOD easier for small and medium-sized companies to do business with. The MOD is committed to being SME-friendly as these companies play a crucial role in UK defence business and represent a significant core of direct suppliers to the Department. For example, in 2005 just over half of the defence contracts let were placed with SMEs, with a value of over half a billion pounds. Consequently this change has been welcomed by the defence trade associations.

The MOD already leads the way in the transparency of its tender and contract opportunities and procedures. In instigating the change we are being consistent with the general direction of EU policy and the work of the Office of Government Commerce. This change complements the European Defence Agency code of best practice in the supply chain as well as the recently launched electronic bulletin board step 2. It is hoped that this will encourage similar moves by our European colleagues.

It is a significant development and one which it is hoped will promote a dynamic and competitive supplier base.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and Sir John Grant (UK Permanent Representative to the EU) represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Luxembourg on 23 April 2007.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

External Relations

World Trade Organisation/Doha Development Round

External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner briefed the Council on negotiations between the G4 (EU, United States, Brazil and India) and with the G6 (the G4 and Australia and Japan) in New Delhi on 11 and 12 April.

Gulf Co-operation Council

The Commission briefed the Council on negotiations between the EU and the Gulf Co-operation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) on a Free Trade Agreement.

The Council also took note of preparations for the EU-Gulf Co-operation Council Ministerial in Riyadh on 8 May.

EU-US Summit

The presidency briefed the Council on negotiations with the US ahead of the Summit on 30 April including plans for a political declaration and proposals for strengthening transatlantic economic relations and those on energy and climate change.

There was a broad-ranging discussion in the Council focusing on energy and climate change and visa waiver arrangements.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary intervened to underline the Government's support for the presidency's efforts in taking forward work on climate change, briefed partners on the recent UN Security Council debate on climate security and suggested Ministers look further at ways the EU could take forward work in this area.

Sudan

The Council discussed Sudan on the basis of a briefing by UN Special Envoy for Darfur, Jan Eliasson, who underlined the EU's role in humanitarian, development and peacekeeping assistance, including financing for the African Union Mission in Sudan. Eliasson also welcomed the Government's initiative to discuss the situation in Sudan at the UN Security Council last week.

The Council welcomed the agreement between the Sudanese Government, the UN and the African Union on the implementation of the UN's heavy support package, the second stage of a three-stage plan to restore peace to the Darfur region. The Government and other member states supported the need to continue diplomatic engagement with the Sudanese to accept the third stage, the deployment of a full African Union/UN peacekeeping force, as well as the ceasefire and reinvigorated political process agreed in Addis Ababa last November. However, if the Sudanese Government failed to comply; the EU should be prepared to consider further measures. There was broad support for this approach in the Council.

The Council adopted conclusions expressing concern at the appalling security and humanitarian situation in Darfur and stressing the urgent need for an inclusive political agreement to solve the conflict while reiterating the Council's readiness to consider further measures, notably, in the UN framework, against any party which obstructs implementation of the agreements already reached with the Government of Sudan.

Zimbabwe

The Council discussed the deteriorating human rights and political situation in Zimbabwe while welcoming the mandate given to South African President Mbeki by the Southern African Development Community to mediate between the opposition and the Government.

Following a UK proposal, the Council adopted conclusions extending the EU's visa ban list to include two additional individuals with responsibility for recent violence and human rights abuses.

Somalia

The Council discussed the renewed violence in Somalia and adopted conclusions stressing the importance of implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1744 to address the political, security and humanitarian challenges faced in Somalia; expressing grave concern at the escalation of the conflict and urging the Transitional Federal Government to convene the National Reconciliation Congress as soon as possible. The conclusions also reaffirm the Council's support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) while recalling the EU's contribution of €15 million.

Central Asia

The presidency briefed the Council on the draft EU Central Asia Strategy including the Foreign Ministers meeting with the five Central Asian countries in Astana on 27 and 28 March.

The Council adopted conclusions taking note of the second round of expert talks with Uzbekistan on Andizhan in Tashkent on 2 and 3 April and decided to enter into a regular, result-oriented human rights dialogue with Uzbekistan. The Government support these talks as a means of encouraging Uzbekistan to make concrete progress on human rights concerns.

Iran

The Council discussed relations with Iran.

The High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, briefed the Council on his contacts with Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary briefed the Council on the lessons learned from the capture of the naval personnel, emphasising the impact of strong international pressure, and thanked partners for their support.

The Council also adopted a Common Position implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1747 and a Council Decision applying the travel ban and assets freeze in the Regulation to individuals and entities who meet the UN criteria in Resolutions 1737 and 1747 but who have not been designated by the UN. The Common Position also introduces a full formal EU arms embargo.

Middle East Peace Process

The Council discussed the Middle East Peace Process and looked forward to further work by the Quartet, including co-operation with Arab partners.

The Council adopted conclusions: stressing the need for continuing support to the Palestinian institutions; endorsing the extension of the Temporary International Mechanism for a further three months; welcoming the Arab Peace Initiative as a major element in moving the political process forward; and the ongoing dialogue between President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert. The UK supports the Commission's work to build Palestinian institutional capacity as a practical way for the EU to support the political process. The conclusions also demanded the immediate and unconditional release of Alan Johnston.

The Council discussed Lebanon and the Hariri Tribunal.

International Moratorium on the Death Penalty

The Council discussed EU action on a global moratorium and eventual abolition of the death penalty. The Council will assess the outcome of an EU action plan adopted in February before deciding on possible next steps.

AOB: Libya

External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner highlighted the possibility of renewed talks with Libya on the case of the Bulgarian medics.

HEALTH

EU Health Ministers

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Ms Rosie Winterton): The informal meeting of EU Health Ministers took place on 19 and 20 April in Aachen. I represented the UK. Items on the agenda were health services consultation and pandemic influenza preparedness. The vaccine for the human papilloma virus (HPV) was raised under any other business.

On the health services consultation, the Commission presented a summary of the responses to the consultation on a community framework for health services. Member states reiterated the key points of their own responses. There was broad support amongst member states for some community level action combining both legislative elements and practical measures.

On pandemic influenza preparedness, the Commission reported on the findings of the recent European Centre of Disease Control on pandemic preparedness in the EU. The presidency noted that while important progress had been made, there was still more to be done.

On the HPV vaccine, Luxembourg raised the issue due to concerns that misleading information about the vaccine could jeopardise preventative work. Ministers from Portugal and Spain echoed these concerns. The Commission noted that an expert working group would be looking at the new vaccine.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 1 May 2007

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (John Healey): Budget 2007 stated that the aviation industry had suggested to the Government that the way in which air passenger duty defined different classes of travel could send inappropriate environmental signals and cause market distortions, for example for "business class only" flights and premium economy type seats. We confirmed in the Budget that we are prepared to consider changes to the definition if these could be done on a broadly revenue neutral basis, and we confirmed that we would be discussing further with the industry how this could be achieved.

Today I am taking forward this commitment through the publication of a consultation document, a copy of which is being placed in the Library of the House and made available on the HMRC website.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council took place in Luxembourg on 19-20 April 2007. The UK was represented by the Attorney-General, Baroness Ashton (DCA) and the Lord Advocate of Scotland.

The Council started with the adoption of the 'A' points list. Among these were a proposal for the establishment of the fundamental rights and citizenship funding programme. The Council rejected the European Parliament's amendments on the Rome II Regulation on the law applicable to non-contractual obligations.

The presidency presented guidelines to direct future work on the Rome III regulations on matrimonial law. A long discussion exposed a range of views among member states, in particular on the question of setting rules on applicable law in the absence of a choice by the spouses. Following several drafting changes the presidency concluded that its paper had been agreed.

The presidency presented guidelines to direct future work on the regulation on maintenance obligations. Notwithstanding points raised by four member states the presidency noted consensus on guidelines as drafted.

The presidency's package of provisions on the Rome I regulation on applicable law in contractual obligations was agreed subject to a Commission reservation on the removal from article 3 of references to European contract law.

The Council agreed a presidency paper on the purpose, content and scope of the common frame of reference in European contract law, which mandates future work to determine the Council's position.

There was lengthy discussion of the draft framework decision on criminal procedural rights. The UK has no disagreement on the objective of the proposal (to raise standards across the EU). However Lord Goldsmith argued strongly for limiting the scope of the framework decision to European arrest warrant (EAW) cases, with action on wholly domestic cases to be pursued via a package of concrete practical measures, backed by a strong political resolution. The presidency put forward an oral proposal along these lines but including a review clause to re-examine the scope in three years' time. The proposal also contained a commitment to look at whether there could legally be a formal opt-in allowing some member states to apply the framework decision to domestic cases and work to try to define "cross border" more widely than the EAW. The presidency will take forward work on this basis and has set the June JHA Council as a deadline for agreeing the main principles.

A general approach was reached on the racism and xenophobia framework decision, subject to parliamentary scrutiny reservations from several member states, which were acknowledged in the presidency's press release. In order to accommodate the concerns of those member states that wanted the framework decision to cover Stalinist crimes, the Council agreed a declaration that deplores all totalitarian crimes, makes reference to the Berlin declaration of 25 March 2007 and contains a commitment by the Commission to organise a public hearing on crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by totalitarian regimes.

Day two of the Council opened in mixed committee format with Norway, Iceland and Switzerland.

First it was reported that implementation of SISOne4All was proceeding according to plan and Portugal's proposal for monitoring arrangements was agreed. The second generation Schengen information system timetable also remains on target for December 2008.

The proposal for rapid border intervention teams (RABITs) was discussed with the presidency urging rapid adoption, in light of the expected summer pressures. A general approach was reached on the current text. The Commission suggested that formal approval could be taken before the June JHA Council so that RABITs could be up and running as soon as possible.

Frontex gave presentations on the European Patrols Network and the Central Record of Technical Equipment, to which the UK has contributed. The Commission also described recent Frontex operations off the coast of Senegal.

Over lunch the presidency updated the Council on the state of play on the data protection framework decision.

On the visa information system (VIS) the Lord Advocate put forward the UK's position that direct access for the UK to the VIS would strengthen work against terrorism

and crime across the EU. She underlined that the UK was offering to provide data on a reciprocal basis. The Council understood this need and would work to ensure access for the UK and Ireland. There was a discussion of the presidency proposed compromise package which was broadly agreed subject to further detailed discussion. The presidency and the Commission will have a further political trilogue with the European Parliament with a view to reaching a first reading agreement as soon as possible.

There was some discussion on the future of Europol with the presidency stressing the priority they put on securing operational improvements. The June JHA Council would be invited to agree articles 1 to 9 of the Council decision and to resolve the questions of funding and staffing. Europol director (Max-Peter Ratzel) confirmed that all the Europol protocols were now in force, which should result in more joint investigation teams and greater third party involvement in Europol work files.

Member states discussed the situation of Iraqi asylum seekers in the EU and in Syria and Jordan. There was broad support for the humanitarian effort in the region led by UNHCR (to which the UK has made a significant contribution). This issue was subsequently addressed in the conclusions of the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 23 April.

The Commission informed the Council that the two Communications on the global approach to migration and a legislative proposal on illegal working could be expected before the June Council. Their directive on illegal working would propose a mix of criminal and administrative sanctions.

Finally, the presidency reported that the EU/US/Russia troika meeting had discussed counter-terrorism and operations to combat drug smuggling in Afghanistan. A high-level group would be established to discuss combating terrorism and hopefully agree a common definition of terrorism. Meanwhile EU/US discussions focused on passenger name records (PNR), data protection and visas. A high level group on data protection was working to establish a set of common principles. If no new agreement could be reached by 31 July the existing interim agreement would be extended.

PRIME MINISTER

Assistant Surveillance Commissioners

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): In accordance with section 63 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, I have agreed to re-appoint His Honour Lord Colville of Culross QC and His Honour Dr. Colin Kolbert as Assistant Surveillance Commissioners from 1 May 2007 until 30 April 2010.

Lord Colville of Culross and Dr. Colin Kolbert have served as Assistant Surveillance Commissioners since 2001.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 2 May 2007

TREASURY

Iran (European Community Financial Sactions) Regulations 2007

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): The Government are strongly supportive of international efforts to tackle the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to prevent the abuse of financial systems. My written ministerial statement of 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 37WS informed Parliament that the Government were seeking the agreement of the Privy Council for the adoption of an Order in Council concerned with giving effect to the financial sanctions against Iran's nuclear programme as required by UNSCR 1737. The Iran (Financial Sanctions) Order 2007 was laid before Parliament on 8 February and came into force on 9 February.

On 19 April, the European Union adopted EC Regulation No 423/2007. This regulation implements at a Community level the sanctions against Iran agreed under UNSCR 1737. It also establishes an autonomous EU financial sanctions list against entities and individuals associated with Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. The regulation came into force on 20 April and is directly applicable in the UK. Council decision 2007/242/EC establishing the autonomous EU financial sanctions list came into force on 24 April.

In order to enforce the financial sanctions elements of EC Regulation No 423/2007, the Government are today laying before the Parliament the "Iran (European Community Financial Sanctions) Regulations 2007". These establish prohibitions, offences and penalties with regard to persons who are on the autonomous EU financial sanctions list in relation to Iran. The "Iran (Financial Sanctions) Order 2007" continues to apply with regard to persons who are on the UN financial sanctions list in relation to Iran.

As set out in the explanatory memorandum to the regulations, it is necessary that the regulations come into force as soon as possible in order to minimise the risk of asset flight. For this reason, the Government consider it necessary to waive the usual convention that there should be at least a 21 day period between regulations being laid and coming into force. Accordingly, the regulations will come into force tomorrow.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agiculture and Fisheries Council

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I represented the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg.

The Council ultimately postponed political agreement on measures to ensure the recovery of the stock of European eel. A compromise text was tabled by the presidency during the meeting, taking into account a number of the concerns of interested member states. However, some member states had particular difficulties remaining which proved irreconcilable. This was unfortunate to say the least, given that the Council adopted conclusions calling for urgent measures as long ago as 2004. However, I hope the dossier will return to the Council in May or June for final approval.

The Council also held a policy debate on a proposal establishing a multi-annual plan for the recovery of cod stocks in the Baltic sea. Although the UK has no direct interest in the fishery, it is clearly important that the plan is adopted as a matter of some urgency. On the basis of the discussion, it is hoped that this will be possible in June.

There was an exchange of views on the Community's approach towards eco-labelling schemes for fisheries products, based on a presidency questionnaire. There was a general consensus that European legislation should simply set minimum requirements for individual schemes, whilst allowing member states to introduce adaptations to suit their national circumstances. I argued that consumers had a role to play in supporting the development of sustainability in fisheries, but supported the use of EU legislation, with the proviso that it did not cut across existing successful schemes like those of the Marine Stewardship Council.

The Fisheries Commissioner updated the Council on the progress made in simplifying and improving the operation of the common fisheries policy (CFP). In particular, he confirmed that they would be cutting down on the size of the annual TAC and quota regulation to make its analysis easier and also that they would be conducting a study into the administrative burden placed on member states by the Community's control and enforcement rules. I welcomed these initiatives.

The Council held a policy debate on proposals to reform the fruit and vegetables sector based on a presidency questionnaire covering decoupling of processing aids and the inclusion of crisis management measures within the operational programmes. I intervened to indicate a readiness to accept limited transition arrangements on decoupling and to warn against allowing crisis management measures to prop up structural surplus production.

The Agriculture Commissioner presented a report on cross-compliance rules introduced in the 2003 CAP reform and which form the first stage of the Commission's review of cross compliance due for completion by the end of 2007. In its report the Commission recommended inter alia the removal of disproportionate penalties for minor non-compliance, the introduction of uniform implementation between member states and advance notice of inspections. There was general support for these initiatives.

A number of issues, as follows, were raised under any other business.

The Agriculture Commissioner updated Council on the WTO agricultural negotiations following discussions with WTO partners (United States, India, Brazil and Japan) in Delhi. She said that there had been little in the way of substantive progress but that all parties had agreed to intensify work with the aim of concluding the round by the end of the year. In reply to some member states, the Commissioner confirmed that the EU's position in the negotiations is still its offer from October 2005.

The Council took note without discussion of updates provided by the Commission on avian influenza, and on the EU-Russia veterinary negotiations.

Denmark called on Council to encourage higher standards of animal welfare, in particular during transport, by using voluntary agreements with the industry.

The Council took note of Poland's concerns about the definition of vodka as part of the current negotiations on the definition, presentation and labelling of spirit drinks.

A number of member states raised concerns about the Commission's offer to introduce duty and quota free access to the EU market for all African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) country products, with transitional periods for rice and sugar, as part of economic partnership agreement negotiations. The Commissioner confirmed that these developments had already been taken into account in the reform of the EU sugar market (2005). I intervened to support WTO-compatible trade liberalisation with these countries.

Spain expressed concerns regarding recent French activities targeting anchovies.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I have set the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) the following performance targets for 2007-08.

Service Delivery

1. To meet 85 per cent. of rationale, objectives, appraisal, monitoring and evaluation (ROAME) milestones.

2. To achieve 85 per cent. of surveillance deliverables to time.

3. To achieve a three-year weighted average score of at least 82 per cent. in the VLA customer satisfaction survey.

Quality

4. VLA science audit—achieve a score, which is good or above in the majority of the assessment areas including one excellent rating.

5. Maintain current third party certifications and accreditations.

Financial

6. To achieve full cost recovery.

Efficiency

7. To deliver 2.5 per cent. efficiency savings.

Safety

8. Implement the VLA safety plan 2007-08 to timescales indicated.

Collaboration

9. Establish a formal framework agreement for extending collaboration with the Institute for Animal Health.

Further details are given in the VLA business plan for 2007-08 a copy of which has been provided to the Library of the House along with copies of the VLA corporate plan.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 3 May 2007

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Law on Damages

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs (Vera Baird): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor has made the following written ministerial statement.

"I will tomorrow publish a consultation paper: 'The Law on Damages'. The paper considers issues arising from a number of Law Commission reports. These include recommendations for changes to the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 concerning claims for damages where a person's death has been caused by the negligence of another person.

The paper also seeks views on the principles surrounding the ability of people to claim damages for the cost of private medical treatment under section 2(4) of the Law Reform (Personal Injuries) Act 1948, and on the interface between the public and private provision of care and accommodation services.

In addition, the paper considers the law on claims for psychiatric illness; aggravated and restitutionary damages; and the treatment in damages awards of collateral benefits, gratuitous care and services, and accommodation expenses.

Copies of the consultation paper will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be obtained free on the Department's website at: http://www.dca.gov.uk/consult/confr.htm#full. The closing date for consultation is 27 July 2007."

NORTHERN IRELAND

Hydebank Wood Prison

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Peter Hain): I wish to announce that, with effect from 3 May 2007, in accordance with the powers conferred on me by rule 5(1) of the Prison and Young Offenders Centre Rules (Northern Ireland) 1995, the boundaries of Hydebank Wood Prison are hereby altered to exclude Beech House. The area to be excluded is indicated on the site map, which I have today placed in the Libraries of both Houses, by the words "Beech House".

WORK AND PENSIONS

Vaccine Damage Payment

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire): I am pleased to announce that we are currently making arrangements to increase the statutory sum of a vaccine damage payment. The change, which will come into force on 12 July, will increase the sum for all new successful claims from the current level of £100,000 to £120,000. This will restore the value of the current payment in today's prices for all new successful claims made on or after this date.

Following a review of the scheme the last increase under this Government took place in 2000 and substantially increased the sum for a vaccine damage payment from £40,000 to £100,000.

Vaccination has been one of the great successes of modern times, and immunisation continues to be the safest way for parents to protect their children against disease. In the event of new awards for vaccine damage, the level of payment has been raised, and this increase shows that the Government remain committed to providing families with financial support.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 16 April 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Orders and Regulations

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Leader of the House what process is used to decide which statutory instruments are to be debated on the Floor of the House. [131300]

Mr. Straw: Under Standing Order No. 118, all affirmative statutory instruments (other than those referred to the Scottish or Northern Ireland Grand Committees) automatically stand referred to a delegated legislation Committee. However, notice may be given of a motion in the name of a Minister of the Crown under sub-paragraph (3)(a) that an instrument shall not stand so referred, in which case it is taken on the Floor of the House. Negative instruments may be taken in a delegated legislation Committee under paragraph (4).

Requests from Ministers or from elsewhere in the House for instruments to be taken on the Floor of the House are considered by business managers, including through discussions in the usual channels.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Clergy Working Group

21. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what recent discussions the Church Commissioners have held with the Department of Trade and Industry on the work of the Clergy Working Group. [131442]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Clergy Working Group (on which the Church of England was represented) produced a statement of good practice setting out minimum standards for the terms and conditions of service of ministers of religion. The Church of England has committed itself to these principles and General Synod has drafted legislation which has been sent to DTI officials, with whom we regularly communicate.

Sex Discrimination

27. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what guidelines the Commissioners have issued on the question of discrimination against employees on the grounds of sexual orientation. [131448]

Sir Stuart Bell: In November 2003 the Archbishops' Council issued general advice to dioceses and parishes on the effect of the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 and the Employment Equality (Religion and Belief) Regulations 2003.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Commission

26. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent discussions the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission has had on the effectiveness of the Electoral Commission. [131447]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission is an independent public body. The Speaker's Committee has a statutory obligation to ensure that any estimate of the income and expenditure of the Commission and accompanying five-year plan which it lays before the House is consistent with the economical, efficient and effective discharge by the Commission of its functions. The Committee discussed the Commission's Estimate for 2007-08 and its five-year plan for 2007-08 to 2011-12 on 21 March and these will be laid before the House shortly. Outside that framework, there is no specific requirement for the Speaker's Committee to discuss the effectiveness of the Commission.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which postal companies handle mail dispatched by his Department. [128254]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My Office is located in a Cabinet Office building and mail for my Office is handled in the same way as the rest of the building.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many people in his Department and its predecessor participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement; [131545]

(2) how many people in his Department and its predecessor who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [131557]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My Office was formed on 5 May 2006. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 253W.

Labour Party: Conferences

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether civil servants in his Office have been given permission to attend the Labour party conference to carry out official business. [119474]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Special advisers may attend conference as permitted in their terms of appointment. No permanent civil servants in my Office have attended conference in their official capacity or been given permission to do so in 2007.

Post Offices

Mr. Bone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the national access criteria for post offices. [131666]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I meet regularly with ministerial colleagues to discuss a range of issues. As the hon. Member will be aware, I also chair the Cabinet Committee on the Future of the Post Office Network.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Political Impartiality

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether there are plans to review the present safeguards of civil servants' impartiality. [130833]

Hilary Armstrong: The requirement to maintain civil servants' impartiality is set out in the Civil Service Code, the Ministerial Code and the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers. Copies of these documents are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Policy Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 823W, on the Policy Review, what the cost has been of the IPSOS-MORI contract. [130885]

Hilary Armstrong: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2127W.

WALES

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the administrative cost has been of *(a)* valuations, *(b)* appeals and *(c)* other costs of the council tax revaluation in Wales. [130573]

Mr. Hain: Revaluation was undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency and costs were met by the Agency out of the funding it receives from the Welsh Assembly Government. The total costs up to 31 March 2005 of delivering the revaluation were £5.198 million.

It is not possible separately to identify the cost of appeals from the Valuation Office Agency's other local taxation work except at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether the 2005 council tax revaluation in Wales was revenue-neutral. [130574]

Mr. Hain: The key aim of council tax revaluation and re-banding was not to increase the yield but to redistribute the council tax more fairly across the population of Wales, on the basis of more up-to-date property values.

The increase in council tax levy at Band D in 2005-06 was 3.8 per cent. This was the lowest increase since the introduction of council tax.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of properties in Wales moved from bands *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* D, *(e)* E, *(f)* F, *(g)* G and *(h)* H to each other band in the Welsh Council Tax revaluation. [130575]

Mr. Hain: The Valuation Office Agency holds the statistics of the properties in Wales that have moved bands following the council tax revaluation.

At a revaluation, bands are reviewed according to the physical characteristics of the dwelling when the list comes into effect (1 April 2005 in Wales). Therefore, some of the increases in banding will be as a result of physical changes that could not have been taken into account during the life of the 1993 lists because there had been no change of ownership since their completion.

The information requested is in the following table:

	Revised A Bandings	*Revised B Bandings*	*Revised C Bandings*	*Revised D Bandings*	*Revised E Bandings*	*Revised F Bandings*	*Revised G Bandings*	*Revised H Bandings*
A	172,006	26,765	673	27	5	1	0	0
B	72,088	188,485	23,211	671	32	1	3	2
C	9,523	97,768	155,687	25,300	736	8	3	0
D	1,549	11,056	69,882	106,606	16,713	301	17	0
E	414	1,398	13,532	56,818	88,919	7,060	115	2
F	183	290	1,661	9,689	49,495	38,314	3,646	6
G	59	110	317	1,303	7,668	17,163	22,482	85
H	10	18	28	85	470	1,377	9,258	806
I	3	5	8	18	79	227	2,721	2,487

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Bailiffs: Certification

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what guidance the Department has issued to local authorities in relation to their certification of bailiffs on debt enforcement involving the disabled or vulnerable. [130854]

Ms Harman: My Department worked closely with creditors and the enforcement profession to produce and issue the national standards for enforcement agents, available from the DCA website. The standards are a best practice guide intended for use by all enforcement agents, public and private, the enforcement agencies that employ them and the major creditors who use them. The standards have been widely endorsed by the trade associations representing bailiffs and advise that discretion should be used when dealing with those who might be potentially vulnerable, including the elderly, people with a disability and single parent families.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* certificated bailiffs, *(b)* uncertificated bailiffs and *(c)* bailiffs doing work requiring certification who do not hold current certification. [130855]

Ms Harman: The regulatory impact assessment for the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill published on 30 January 2007 estimates that there are 1,200 uncertificated bailiffs. As at 30 March 2007 the Register of Certificated Bailiffs maintained by HMCS currently lists 1,482 certificated bailiffs. There should be no bailiffs doing work requiring certification who do not hold a current certificate.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the procedure is for complaining about the activity of *(a)* an uncertificated and *(b)* a certificated bailiff. [130857]

Ms Harman: Complaints made against bailiffs, be they certificated or non-certificated, can be made by telephone or writing to the firm that the bailiff works for, the organisation who employed the bailiff to act on their behalf or the magistrates court that issued the enforcement order. Complaints against certificated bailiffs can also be made to the court that granted certification to the bailiff and to the Enforcement Officers Association, or the Association of Civil Enforcement Agencies, which are responsible for promoting higher standards within the profession. HMCS leaflet EX345 details the procedure for complaints about bailiffs and recommends seeking legal advice before starting this process.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what fees are charged by bailiffs for debt enforcement; and by whom they are payable. [130858]

Ms Harman: Bailiffs' fees are included in the sum to be paid by the offender or debtor. There is no single statutory fee structure but different fees depending on the type of debt and where responsibility for enforcing that debt lies.

The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill, currently progressing through Parliament, will further regulate the activities of bailiffs and introduce a single simplified fee structure designed to support the principles of transparency, consistency and proportionality.

Coroners: Armed Forces

Robert Key: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what new arrangements she plans to make to fund HM Coroners following her decision to transfer responsibility for coroners inquests from Oxfordshire to the home counties of individual deceased military personnel; and if she will make a statement. [129139]

Ms Harman: I will continue to regularly review progress regarding these inquests. I do not plan to make any new funding arrangements where inquests are transferred by the Oxfordshire coroner to coroners nearer to the next of kin.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many inquests into deaths of service personnel killed in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan are still outstanding; and when she expects this backlog to be cleared. [131697]

Ms Harman: There are 42 inquests outstanding relating to service personnel killed in Iraq and 45 relating to service personnel killed in Afghanistan. The timing of individual inquests is a matter for the coroner concerned to determine but I expect outstanding inquests to be concluded without any unnecessary delay.

Courts

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many cases there were of defendants absconding from courts in each year since 2002. [130479]

Ms Harman: HMCS does not routinely collect this information and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Courts: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she expects to lay the Orders relevant to section 178 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to enable the community justice court in Nottingham to conduct cases referred to in that section; and if she will make a statement. [130497]

Ms Harman: Responsibility for this legislation rests with the Home Office. Powers under section 178 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to enable the review of a community order have been in operation for almost a year, as a pilot at the community justice initiatives in

North Liverpool and Salford. We are now assessing their impact, with a view to extending their use to the new community justice courts announced by the Lord Chancellor on 27 November, including Nottingham. This extension will give us further information about the operation of the powers and their impact on offender behaviour, as well as the resources required by the courts and Probation Service. My officials are therefore working with Home Office officials to ensure the affirmative resolution order to extend the powers is taken forward as soon as this assessment is complete.

Section 178 is one element only of the community justice concept however, and the community court in Nottingham will be able to begin operation, just as Liverpool and Salford did, prior to receiving these powers.

Courts: Pay

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she plans to take to tackle local court staff application shortages in areas with the lowest band pay under the proposed new pay system for local departmental civil servants. [128609]

Ms Harman: Negotiations with the trade unions on the proposed new pay system are continuing. These focus on important issues such as how the pay system will better support effective recruitment of staff into courts across the country. I will write to my right hon. Friend once negotiations have been concluded.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions Ministers in her Department have had with their counterparts at HM Treasury on the proposed new pay system. [128610]

Ms Harman: Extensive discussions were held with the Treasury about the new pay system. These began in summer 2006 and concluded in January 2007.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on what basis the pay bands were allocated to different regions in the proposed new pay system for local court staff. [128611]

Ms Harman: Negotiations with the trade unions on the new pay system are continuing. These address crucial issues such as how the pay system will better enable the Department to compete effectively in local labour markets. I will write to my right hon. Friend once the negotiations have been concluded.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what pilot schemes have been carried out to test the proposed new pay scheme for local court staff. [128612]

Ms Harman: Pilot schemes are not an appropriate method of testing a new pay system.

Custody: Parents

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that parents are treated equitably in terms of access to their children following separation or divorce. [130604]

Ms Harman: The Government believe that where it is safe and in the child's best interests, children ben. from a continuing relationship and regular cont. with both parents, following separation or divorce.

The vast majority of people (90 per cent.) going through a relationship breakdown do not go to court over contact arrangements with their children. This shows that most people are willing and able to come to their own decisions about how best to manage their ongoing relationship with their children.

Where arrangements for contact with children cannot be agreed, any parent can apply to the court for a contact order under the Children Act 1989, enabling them to have contact with their children.

Approximately 10 per cent. of separating families turn to the courts for help in resolving arrangements for contact with their children. The paramount consideration for the court when making an order under the Children Act is the welfare of the child or children concerned. Both parents are equal before the law and the family courts start from that position.

Enforcement Law Reform Group

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will publish the minutes of the Enforcement Law Reform Group meeting held on 16 January 2007. [130853]

Ms Harman: My Department is not responsible for the Enforcement Law Reform Group, which is independent of Government. Minutes from the meeting have already been published and can currently be found online on the Credit Collections and Risk magazine website.

Fixed Penalties

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of *(a)* fixed penalties and *(b)* fines imposed by the courts in England and Wales were collected in full in each year between 1997 and 2006. [130817]

Ms Harman: Table 1 shows the number of fixed penalties issued and the percentage of those fitted penalties that were paid since 1997. Table 2 shows numbers of penalty notices for disorder issued and the percentage paid since inception of the scheme in 2004.

Table 3 details the fines payment rate for the last seven years. Data are collected on the value of financial penalties (including fines) imposed and outstanding and cannot be separated out to identify the percentage of fines imposed in any year that were collected, be it partially or in full.

Table 1: Fixed penalties[1]

Calendar year	*Total number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued (million)*	*Percentage of FPNs paid in full*
1997	3.4	77
1998	3.4	78
1999	3.2	79

Table 1: Fixed penalties[1]

Calendar year	*Total number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued (million)*	*Percentage of FPNs paid in full*
2000	3.1	80
2001	3.0	82
2002	3.1	84
2003	3.6	87
2004	3.4	[2]

[1] Figures supplied by Home Office RDS
[2] Data due for publication June 2007

Table 2: Penalty notices for disorder (PNDs)[1]

Calendar year	*Total number of PNDs issued*	*Percentage of PNDs paid in full*
2004	63,639	52
2005	146,481	53

[1] Figures supplied by Home Office RDS

Table 3: Fines payment rate[1]

Financial year	*Payment rate—England and Wales (percentage)*
1999-2000	62
2000-01	63
2001-02	59
2002-03	55
2003-04	74
2004-05	80
2005-06	83
2006-07 year-to-date (April-January)	91

[1] Figures supplied by HMCS.

Note:
Payment Rate = Amount Paid divided by New Net Amount Owed
The primary performance indicator is the payment rate. It is defined as the amount paid into court as a percentage of the new net amount owed. Methods of calculating the new net amounts owed have changed a number of times and are detailed as follows:
September 1999 to March 2003—New Net Amount Owed includes Legally Cancelled amounts, Civil monies and Confiscation Orders.
April 2003 to December 2003—New Net Amount Owed excludes Legally Cancelled amounts, Civil monies and Confiscation Orders.
January 2004 to July 2004—New Net Amount Owed excludes Legally Cancelled amounts, Administratively Cancelled amounts, Civil monies and Confiscation Orders.
July 2004 onwards—New Net Amount Owed excludes Legally Cancelled amounts, Administratively Cancelled amounts, Civil monies and Confiscation Orders, but includes Amounts Written Back.

From April 2003 onwards, confiscation and civil amounts have not been included in any of the enforcement calculations. It is not possible to separate those elements out from the figures before that date. As a result of these revisions, direct year-on-year comparisons cannot be made.

John Smith Memorial Trust

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support her Department gave to the John Smith Memorial Trust in each of the last three years. [127921]

Ms Harman: My Department has provided funding for the John Smith Memorial Trust's Fellowships for young leaders from the former Soviet Union. In the last three years, funding was as follows:

	Amount (£)
2004-05	295,755
2005-06	305,000
2006-07	312,000

My Department also provides short placements for those Fellows with an interest in the Department's areas of work.

Legal Aid

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many solicitors have given notice of their intention to cease to offer *(a)* criminal and *(b)* family legal aid services if the proposed reforms of legal aid are implemented. [115637]

Vera Baird: The Government are committed to controlling legal aid expenditure. A small number of practitioners have recently informed the LSC that they do not intend to continue doing legal aid work. This is not unusual, as the number of providers in the market has always fluctuated. There will be no effect on the provision of service to clients in any area. These few solicitors have made this assertion without sight of either the proposed new fee levels (crime and family), or the structure of the process for competitive tendering (crime), both of which the LSC are due to consult on shortly.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what recent representations she has received on the new system of legal aid provision. [131707]

Vera Baird: I meet frequently with legal aid practitioners and other interested parties to discuss aspects of the legal aid reform programme. I also receive correspondence from MPs, representative bodies, practitioner groups and individual practitioners.

Legal Aid: Northamptonshire

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what effect she expects her reforms of the legal aid system to have on legal aid provision in Northamptonshire. [131659]

Vera Baird: The Government's proposals, set out in "Legal Aid Reform: the Way Ahead", will ensure that legal aid continues to be available for those people who require legal assistance. The reforms will ensure that legal aid spending can be placed on a sustainable footing and spending rebalanced between civil, family and criminal legal aid. As part of these reforms, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) will be introducing a new civil help fee scheme from October 2007, under which 68 per cent. of providers in the LSC region, which includes Northamptonshire, will see their fees increase.

Legal Aid: Wales

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much was spent on legal aid in Wales in each year since 1992; and if she will make a statement. [130586]

Vera Baird: Legal aid expenditure in Wales earlier than 1999-2000 pre-dates the current management information systems and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Legal aid funding is administered centrally and is not granted to specific geographical areas.

An individual based in one area can receive legal help and representation from a legal service provider based in another. The following table shows the amounts paid to legal service providers based in Wales across all areas of legal aid.

Figures for the Crown court are based on the bills paid for proceedings in Crown court locations based in Wales and Chester.

£ million

	Legal aid paid for licensed work in civil matters—including representation where available	*Legal aid paid for controlled work in civil matters limited to legal advice and assistance*	*Legal aid paid for legal advice given in criminal matters and also representation in criminal proceedings in the magistrates' courts*	*Legal aid paid under individual case contracts in lengthy and complex criminal cases (VHCCs)*	*Legal aid paid by the Crown court locations in Wales and Chester*
1999-2000	37.3	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
2000-01	27.0	7.2	(1)	(1)	(1)
2001-02	30.8	9.1	26.4	0.2	22.9
2002-03	26.8	11.1	29.9	0.2	28.3
2003-04	32.2	11.7	29.8	0.1	29.7
2004-05	31.0	11.2	28.8	0.9	26.5
2005-06	34.8	11.5	28.3	1.5	25.8

(1) Data not available

Legal Aid: Wellingborough

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many firms provide legal aid services in Wellingborough; and what the average number of such firms is per constituency. [131664]

Vera Baird: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) does not hold data based on constituency boundaries. However, in the Wellingborough area there are currently eight contracted legal aid providers. The local need for legal aid provision will vary due to a number of factors, such as population and affluence, and a crude average is unlikely to reflect the true need of the local area. As at 31 March 2006, there were 4,101 legal aid providers in England and Wales.

Prisoners

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many and what percentage of prisoners *(a)* began and *(b)* completed a course resulting in a (i) educational and (ii) professional qualification whilst in prison in each of the last five years. [129913]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

Data were not previously collected in a format that would enable the information requested to be provided. However, since the introduction of the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) across England with effect from 31 July 2006, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is collecting information about offender learners and their achievements. The following data relate to full qualifications, or units towards full qualifications, achieved by offenders in custody over the age of 16 since that date.

Month	*Total number of learners at start of month*	*New learners (included in column 1)*	*Full/part qualifications achieved*	*Full/part qualifications achieved as a percentage of total learners[1]*
August 2006	21,175	9,915	14,036	66.3
September 2006	22,326	10,115	12,338	55.2
October 2006	23,795	10,954	11,970	50.3
November 2006	22,514	10,088	11,496	51.0
December 2006	24,466	7,401	10,730	43.8
January 2007	23,503	10,348	12,566	53.4
Total	137,779	58,821	73,136	53.0

[1] Individual learners may achieve more than one full/part qualification

Unpaid Fines

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many liability orders for unpaid *(a)* council tax, *(b)* business rates, *(c)* parking charge notices and *(d)* child support and unexecuted magistrates court warrants for unpaid fines were issued in (i) London and (ii) elsewhere in England in the last period for which figures are available. [130856]

Ms Harman: My Department does not collect management information on numbers of liability orders issued by magistrates courts.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Museum Collections

12. **Rosie Cooper**: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking to encourage museums to share their collections and take them into schools in West Lancashire. [131518]

Mr. Lammy: As a result of our investment in the Renaissance in the regions programme, we have seen a 50 per cent. increase in engagement between school-aged children and museums since 2003. This has come about through more school visits and a seven-fold increase in participation in learning outreach activities.

Freeview

13. **Mr. Grogan**: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what representations she has received on the allocation of sufficient spectrum to Freeview to ensure its ability to offer higher definition television. [131519]

Mr. Woodward: We have received a number of representations about the digital dividend review including some on high definition.

However, issues about spectrum use are the responsibility of Ofcom. We will continue to consider stakeholders' and Ofcom's views.

Racism in Sport

14. **Mr. Hepburn**: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what funding her Department provides towards campaigns to prevent racism in sport; and if she will make a statement. [131520]

Mr. Caborn: Sport England provides an annual grant of approximately £300,000 to Sporting Equals, which champions race equality in sport.

Also through Sport England, the Government provide funding to the Football Foundation, the UK's largest sports charity, which supports anti-racism campaigns in football like 'Kick it Out' and 'Show Racism the Red Card'.

Culture: Huddersfield

15. **Mr. Sheerman**: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what support her Department has provided for cultural activity in Huddersfield in the last 10 years. [131521]

Mr. Lammy: The programmes provided by my Department and its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) over the last decade have made a significant contribution to the provision of culture in Huddersfield.

Events such as the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival have undoubtedly played an important role in improving the quality of life in the town. In early 2007 the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival was awarded £389,500 from Arts Council England; this investment will help to secure the long-term future of one of Europe's leading international new music festivals.

Football Governance

16. **Bob Russell**: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, when she last met the football authorities to discuss governance of football. [131522]

Mr. Caborn: I have met representatives of the Football Association to discuss governance of football on a number of occasions, most recently on 7 March 2007.

The proposals outlined by Lord Burns in his review of the FA were passed in October, when the FA Council voted to implement every single reform.

However, The FA shareholders must also approve them and I understand they are due to meet on 29 May.

School Sports

17. **Barbara Keeley**: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if she will make a statement on Government support for competitive sport in schools. [131523]

Mr. Caborn: Through the national school sport strategy the Government are revitalising competitive school sport.

The 2005-06 school sport survey showed that:

97 per cent. of schools held a competitive sports day;

71 per cent. of pupils were involved in intra-school competition; and

37 per cent. of pupils from years 4-11 were involved in inter-school competition; up 12 per cent. on 2004.

We are developing a network of competition managers across school sport partnerships to continue to improve the quality and quantity of competitive school sport. In addition, we have established the UK school games.

Arts: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Government funding local artists in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency and *(b)* Tees Valley sub-region received in each of the last 10 years. [130888]

Mr. Woodward: The tables show the Arts Council's funding commitments to local artists in Hartlepool and Tees Valley in the last 10 years. Local artists are defined as individual artists living in Hartlepool or Tees Valley. Grant in aid figures exclude grants given to regularly funded organisations.

(a) Local artists in the Hartlepool constituency

		£
	Grant in aid	*Lottery*
1997-98	1,284	0
1998-99	2,628	0
1999-2000	3,127	0
2000-01	709	0
2001-02	3,867	0
2002-03	6,476	0
2003-04	0	0
2004-05	0	5,000

(a) Local artists in the Hartlepool constituency

	Grant in aid	£ Lottery
2005-06	0	0
2006-07	1,500	0
Total	19,590	5,000

(b) Local artists in the Tees valley sub-region

	Grant in aid	£ Lottery
1997-98	15,509	0
1998-99	18,771	0
1999-2000	24,513	20,900
2000-01	4,950	26,550
2001-02	17,859	0
2002-03	52,355	0
2003-04	91,862	0
2004-05	46,102	0
2005-06	53,313	0
2006-07	104,954	0
Total	430,188	47,450

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public money was spent on arts projects in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency and *(b)* Tees Valley sub-region in each of the last 10 years. [130889]

Mr. Woodward: The tables show the Arts Council's funding commitments to arts projects in Hartlepool and Tees Valley in the last 10 years. Grant in aid figures exclude grants given to regularly funded organisations.

(a) Arts projects in the Hartlepool constituency

	Grant in aid	£ Lottery
1997-98	76,485	517,568
1998-99	75,533	75,757
1999-2000	154,866	0
2000-01	162,209	7,850
2001-02	114,841	48,000
2002-03	36,922	0
2003-04	17,879	28,578
2004-05	29,055	2,650
2005-06	97,721	0
2006-07	86,363	11,850
Total	851,875	692,253

(b) Arts projects in the Tees valley sub-region

	Grant in aid	£ Lottery
1997-98	610,563	816,961
1998-99	685,460	357,243
1999-2000	966,873	63,000
2000-01	1,043,282	250,287
2001-02	844,498	426,078
2002-03	216,985	478,215
2003-04	245,714	4,930,246
2004-05	533,721	357,693
2005-06	786,917	628,336
2006-07	897,551	432,343
Total	6,831,564	8,740,402

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria she applies when deciding the information to be included in response to *(a)* written parliamentary questions and *(b)* Freedom of Information requests; and if she will undertake an assessment (i) of the volume of information given in response to each category of inquiry and (ii) the reasons for any discrepancies in the volume of information supplied. [129357]

Mr. Lammy: The Cabinet Office guidance on answering parliamentary questions provides advice to officials on answering parliamentary questions. The guidance covers situations where similar information has been requested in a parliamentary question and in a Freedom of Information request. Copies of the guidance are available in the Library. Freedom of Information requests are considered in accordance with the legislation.

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by her Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130145]

Tessa Jowell: None of the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 have been appointed to a public body by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many people in her Department participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement; [131539]

(2) how many people in her Department who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if she will make a statement. [131555]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to her by the Under-Secretary of State, the Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, my hon. Friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr. Lammy), on 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1401W.

Digital Switchover

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 501W, on digital switchover, what progress has been made on ensuring that additional energy costs of set-top boxes are reduced; and if she will provide details of the special codes that she intends to introduce. [129117]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

Government and Digital UK, the independent, non-profit organisation leading the process of digital TV switchover in the UK, are working to encourage the reduction of energy consumption for digital TV equipment as far as possible:

We are promoting to consumers the use of digital TVs and set-top boxes with low levels of energy consumption. These can be identified by the "Energy Saving Recommended" logo;

Manufacturers are being encouraged to reduce both the "on" and the "stand-by" power consumption of household appliances through the adoption of design improvements and adherence to maximum power consumption levels set out in the voluntary European Code of Conduct on Energy Efficiency of Digital TV Service Systems;

We are continuing to work with retailers on the development of a voluntary scheme to encourage the purchase of energy efficient consumer electronics, as announced in Budget 2006;

Government are committed to using their own purchasing power to bring forward more sustainable products. For example, set-top boxes provided through the Digital Switchover Help Scheme will be expected to meet the European Code of Conduct on Energy Efficiency of Digital TV Service Systems.

Elgin Marbles

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions her Department has had with the British Museum on the future of the Elgin Marbles. [129853]

Tessa Jowell: My Department is in regular contact with the British Museum on issues relating to the Parthenon Sculptures. Decisions on the future of the sculptures are a matter for the British Museum trustees.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions her Department has had with the Government of Greece on the Elgin Marbles; what her policy is on *(a)* ownership and *(b)* loan to Greece of the Marbles; and if she will make a statement. [129854]

Tessa Jowell: My Department has had no discussions with the Greek Government on the Parthenon Sculptures since December 2004. Items in the collection of the British Museum are vested in the care of the trustees under the British Museum Act 1963. Issues relating to the ownership or loan of the Parthenon Sculptures are matters for the trustees and Government do not intervene.

Energy: Conservation

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what requirement there is for the inclusion of energy saving and energy producing features in the Government's Better Public Building initiative. [131187]

Mr. Woodward: As part of its aim of achieving excellent design for all new public buildings, the Better Public Building initiative promotes the Government's common minimum standards for the procurement of built environments in the public sector. These apply across the public building programme. Energy performance is included within the sustainability section of these standards.

Football: World Cup

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the likely benefits which will result from bidding to host the 2018 Football World cup. [131119]

Mr. Caborn: No assessment of the likely benefits that will result from bidding to host the 2018 Football World cup has been made by the Government. The Government feasibility study "Hosting the World Cup" acknowledges both the potential for wider economic benefits and intangible benefits arising from hosting such a major sporting event. The study also advises that, should the Football Association bid to host the event, they should commission an independent study into the wider economic benefits of hosting the competition to be published alongside the bid document.

Licensed Premises: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licensed premises there are in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex; and how many of these are (i) public houses, (ii) clubs, (iii) supermarkets and (iv) off-licences. [130964]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not held centrally. The Licensing Act 2003 devolved the administration of the licensing regime to individual licensing authorities, who may hold information about licensed premises in their area.

National Lottery: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what total amount was paid in Lottery grants in each Hampshire local and unitary authority for *(a)* community, *(b)* leisure, *(c)* environment, *(d)* housing, *(e)* social inclusion and *(f)* other purposes in each of the last five financial years. [131243]

Mr. Caborn: We are not able to provide the information in the form requested because Lottery grants are not categorised under these headings.

The value of new Lottery grants awarded in each of the good cause areas in each of the last five completed financial years is given in the following tables. This information is derived from the Department's Lottery Grants Database, which uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors and can be searched at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

Basingstoke and Deane

£000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	*Heritage*	*Sport*	*Charitable Expenditure*	*Health, Education and Environment*
2002-03	60	0	0	3	480
2003-04	36	78	0	163	313
2004-05	64	0	918	151	126
2005-06	46	44	0	389	21
2006-07	281	0	0	604	0

East Hants

£000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	Heritage	Sport	Charitable Expenditure	Health, Education and Environment
2002-03	10	48	39	507	92
2003-04	14	0	365	216	0
2004-05	22	96	94	183	22
2005-06	10	50	0	876	33
2006-07	0	90	0	143	0

Havant

£000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	Heritage	Sport	Charitable Expenditure	Health, Education and Environment
2002-03	17	0	909	142	156
2003-04	82	38	0	245	215
2004-05	106	0	0	139	389
2005-06	67	0	0	383	38
2006-07	2	0	0	101	0

Eastleigh

£1,000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	Heritage	Sport	Charitable Expenditure	Health, Education and Environment
2002-03	153	0	267	290	548
2003-04	140	135	1,263	60	1,337
2004-05	64	0	6,090	58	109
2005-06	131	15	5,811	379	130
2006-07	23	0	0	96	0

New Forest

£000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	Heritage	Sport	Charitable Expenditure	Health, Education and Environment
2002-03	50	66	0	373	1,294
2003-04	49	899	1,225	528	1,419
2004-05	314	1,000	62	572	569
2005-06	69	0	0	426	126
2006-07	42	44	0	438	0

Fareham

£000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	Heritage	Sport	Charitable Expenditure	Health, Education and Environment
2002-03	9	0	110	33	1,154
2003-04	0	0	0	69	1,388
2004-05	15	17	0	23	220
2005-06	11	0	0	106	137
2006-07	0	0	0	92	10

Portsmouth

£000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	Heritage	Sport	Charitable Expenditure	Health, Education and Environment
2002-03	90	4,218	702	496	1,157
2003-04	83	79	552	1,640	1,487
2004-05	995	951	5,714	651	763
2005-06	302	0	80	1,148	408
2006-07	141	175	0	485	0

Gosport

£000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	Heritage	Sport	Charitable Expenditure	Health, Education and Environment
2002-03	0	2,151	0	166	76
2003-04	4	38	751	56	0
2004-05	0	0	1,484	26	275
2005-06	68	0	0	236	15
2006-07	0	25	0	35	0

Rushmoor

£000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	Heritage	Sport	Charitable Expenditure	Health, Education and Environment
2002-03	0	0	389	220	54
2003-04	1	48	343	31	1,190
2004-05	0	14	0	41	125
2005-06	11	50	0	295	20
2006-07	0	0	0	26	9

Hart

£000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	Heritage	Sport	Charitable Expenditure	Health, Education and Environment
2002-03	0	0	0	275	0
2003-04	22	462	0	133	0
2004-05	11	0	0	27	114
2005-06	3	0	0	31	15
2006-07	1	45	0	51	0

Southampton

£000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	Heritage	Sport	Charitable Expenditure	Health, Education and Environment
2002-03	253	7	7,234	627	446
2003-04	72	753	0	1,092	1,257
2004-05	279	1,116	927	439	1,956
2005-06	295	454	17	433	403
2006-07	35	494	0	778	9

Test Valley

£000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	*Heritage*	*Sport*	*Charitable Expenditure*	*Health, Education and Environment*
2002-03	50	8	0	194	32
2003-04	13	457	452	128	1,603
2004-05	17	0	60	328	109
2005-06	89	23	0	418	149
2006-07	5	0	0	108	0

Winchester

£000 (rounded to nearest £1,000)

	Arts	*Heritage*	*Sport*	*Charitable Expenditure*	*Health, Education and Environment*
2002-03	264	422	246	429	1,292
2003-04	635	93	12	341	664
2004-05	366	721	2,995	419	142
2005-06	526	2,622	34	1,241	66
2006-07	276	73	78	862	0

Olympic Games

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to her Oral Statement of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 450-52, on the 2012 Olympics, if she will list the regeneration projects to be financed by the £1.7 billion she announced in her statement last Thursday which are not necessary to stage the London 2012 Olympics. [129381]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 23 March 2007]*: The regeneration projects include enabling works (such as site remediation and demolition), utilities, the power lines undergrounding, roads, bridges, tunnels and other structures, landscaping, and legacy conversion.

These are an integral part of our programme to stage the greatest sporting event in our country and act as a catalyst for the most ambitious regeneration programme in recent memory.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had with colleagues in other Departments on the impact on their budgets of the increased cost of the Olympics. [124603]

Tessa Jowell: We have been engaged in a rigorous review of costs since London was awarded the games in July 2005. Following the conclusion of discussions within Government, I announced on 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 450, a budget for the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and on a number of issues including wider security, tax and contingency provision.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how the £738 million of private sector funding itemised as part of the public sector funding package for the 2012 Olympics will be raised. [126210]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 8 March 2007]*: Private sector funding has never been part of the public sector funding package, but at the time of the bid, we were pursuing options for private sector funding. The bid reflected this potential, but in light of further work and advice after the bid, it seemed incompatible to achieve funding with the sort of time scale that was going to be necessary.

As I said when replying to the hon. Member's questions on 15 March after making my statement to the House

> "We have now allowed for a private sector contribution in the budget, but on a pessimistic basis against the full expectation of what might be raised ... Negotiations are underway ... with different private sector partners so it is possible, but not certain that that may change. [*Official Report*, 15 March 2007; vol. 458, col. 455]"

This excludes the Olympic village where the major share of funding will come from the private sector.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will break down by main budget heading the Olympic Delivery Authority's planned expenditure for each year until 2012; and if she will make a statement. [128403]

Tessa Jowell: I am not yet in a position to be able to provide this breakdown. This will be detailed in the Olympic Delivery Authority's Corporate Plan which it is currently developing and plans to publish by the end of the summer.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when construction will begin on the Olympic sites at *(a)* Horseguards' Parade for volleyball, *(b)* the Royal Artillery Barracks for indoor shooting, *(c)* the four arenas at the Excel exhibition centre, *(d)* the temporary Greenwich arena for badminton and gymnastics, *(e)* Greenwich Park for equestrian events and pentathlon arenas, *(f)* Hyde Park for the triathlon, *(g)* All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon, *(h)* the Millennium Dome for artistic gymnastics and basketball and *(i)* Lord's cricket ground; and if she will make a statement. [128404]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is responsible for construction at the Royal Artillery Barracks and the temporary Greenwich arena. The ODA is currently working with the London Organising Committee for the 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) to finalise each venue's requirements for the games, which will inform the construction programme.

The remaining venues or sites are covered by LOCOG as part of their programme to deliver temporary additional facilities and services (e.g. temporary seating, platforms, signage) required to support all elements of operations during the games. Commencement of the delivery of these facilities is scheduled for early 2012.

There will also be some earlier work to provide for test events in 2011.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assumptions were

made of the total level of private investment in the Olympic Village in the (*a*) Arup report, (*b*) Olympic bid document, (*c*) PricewaterhouseCoopers' Olympic Games Impact Study, (*d*) Faithful and Gould analysis of costs and (*e*) her evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on 21 November 2006; and if she will make a statement. [128410]

Tessa Jowell: The Faithful and Gould report was not commissioned by DCMS and we are not aware of any estimates they may have made. All the other reports assumed that the level of private investment in the Olympic Village would be 100 per cent.

After bid win, I instituted a thorough cost review. As a result, it was clear that we would need to compensate private developers for the additional costs incurred in meeting the Olympic specifications and timing. In my evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on 21 November 2006, I therefore said that we expected the majority of the financing for the development of the Olympic Village would come from the private sector, but the specific arrangements for this had yet to be finalised.

The Olympic Delivery Authority have since announced that they are in talks with Lend Lease for the development of the Olympic Village.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will break down the £1.275 billion of contingency funding for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games reported in the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004 according to (*a*) overall programme contingency funding, (*b*) individual venue contingencies in (i) total and (ii) as a percentage of that venue's budget and (*c*) other; and if she will make a statement. [128411]

Tessa Jowell: The £1.275 billion reported in the regulatory impact assessment for the Horserace Betting and Olympic Lottery Act 2004 was not broken down in this degree of detail at that stage.

Following London winning the bid I have instituted a thorough review of costs and provisions, as I made clear I would, to the House of Commons on 15 May 2003. I made a statement on funding provision for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games on 15 March.

As a result the ODA will be given a budget to cover the construction costs as a whole of £5.3 billion up to 2012 comprising:

£3.1 billion for the building of Olympic Park and venues—the core Olympic costs;

£1.7 billion for the Olympic infrastructure and regeneration, linking the park to the rest of the Lower Lea Valley and;

£500 million for programme contingency.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether her revised Olympic budget of 15 March contains an estimate for the potential amount of planning gain supplement tax that may be incurred; [129288]

(2) whether she has received any advice from the Treasury on the likely impact of the proposed planning gain supplement tax on the Olympic Games budget. [129289]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* The Government are now carefully considering the responses to the consultations on the planning gain supplement (PGS) which closed recently. If, after further consideration, the Government decide to proceed with PGS then it would be introduced no earlier than 2009.

The Government announced at the 2006 pre-Budget report that transitional arrangements would aim to ensure that developments already formally in the planning process would not be subject to PGS.

The Government propose that for development where planning permission was granted before an appropriate appointed day in the future, including for outline planning permissions, PGS would not apply.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 324W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, what (*a*) discussions she has held and (*b*) correspondence she has received from (i) the Great Britain Target Shooting Federation, (ii) the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association, (iii) the British International Clay Target Shooting Federation and (iv) other shooting organisations on the siting of the Olympic shooting competition at Woolwich; what their views were on the decision; and if she will make a statement. [131356]

Mr. Caborn: DCMS Ministers have not held discussions with shooting organisations on the siting of the Olympic shooting events. Ministers have received correspondence from the National Rifle Association, the British International Clay Target Shooting Federation and Southern Counties Shooting Ltd. over the selection of venue for the Olympic shooting events, and suggesting several alternative venues. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 324W, on the selection of the location for the Olympic shooting events.

Radio Frequencies: Licensing

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the likely impact on the production of live and recorded entertainment of proposals to sell the radio spectrum. [130804]

Mr. Lammy: Ofcom has assessed the impact of its proposals to auction spectrum released by switchover. They have recognised that there is a risk of business disruption for the above sectors. To address this issue, Ofcom has proposed that spectrum access be guaranteed up until 2012, for professional PMSE uses. After that period, the regulator proposes to ensure that interleaved spectrum is auctioned so as to include packages that will be suitable for PMSE use—though other uses will not be excluded.

Ofcom will publish a further discussion paper specifically on PMSE, in May.

Sports: Finance

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support her Department provides for sports at the grass-roots level. [131514]

Mr. Caborn: Since 1997, the Government and national lottery distributing bodies have committed over £3 billion to grass-roots sport which includes over 4,000 new or refurbished facilities, 3,000 community sports coaches and tax relief to over 4,000 amateur sports clubs.

Tourism

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the outcomes of the recent British Tourism Week; and if she will make a statement. [131517]

Mr. Woodward: I congratulate VisitBritain, UKInbound, and the other organisations which were involved in making British Tourism Week such a success in raising the profile of the sector.

VisitBritain is evaluating the benefits of the programme of events to the industry with a view to making this an annual event.

Tourism: Smoking

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the ban on smoking in public places in the Health Act 2006 on tourism to the UK from the middle east. [131755]

Mr. Lammy: None. Evidence from the Republic of Ireland, provided by Tourism Ireland to VisitBritain shows that the smoking ban introduced in April 2004 has not produced any general adverse effect on inbound tourism numbers. VisitBritain's overseas offices are providing information about the smoking bans in force in Scotland and Wales, and to be introduced in England, to potential visitors from the middle east.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 16 April 2007

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which areas alternative livelihood projects have been set up in Afghanistan; and what estimate has been made of the numbers of farmers participating. [127127]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

DFID's Livelihoods programme, worth nearly £150 million from 2006-09, helps support the Government of Afghanistan's National Priority Programmes aimed at developing alternative legal livelihood opportunities. These programmes address the multiple constraints that prevent farmers from moving away from poppy cultivation, including access to credit, markets and productive infrastructure. DFID receives regular progress reports from each of the programmes it funds. The following table shows DFID's contribution to these programmes. It highlights achievements and the number of beneficiaries to date.

Programme name and DFID contribution	*Beneficiaries*	*Provinces*	*Achievements*
National Solidarity programme (NSP) £17 million over 3 years	15,103 communities	All 34 provinces	16,343 Community Development Councils have been established. Over £346 million spent on areas of agriculture, education, health, irrigation, power, public buildings, transport and water supply
National Rural Access programme (NRAP) £18 million in 2005-06	375,000 households across Afghanistan	All 34 provinces	9,575 km roads built or repaired, as well as schools, health clinics and water schemes
Micro-Finance Investment Support Facility (MISFA) £20 million over 3 years	300,501 households, shopkeepers, tailors, and farmers among others. 75 per cent. of MISFA beneficiaries are women	20 provinces: Badakhshan Baghlan Balkh Bamyan Faryab Ghazni Helmand Herat Jawzjan Kabul Kapisa Kunarha Kunduz Laghman Logar Nangarhar Parwan Samangan Saripul Takhar Wardak	Over £96 million of small loans distributed to 570,293 people

DFID has also provided £3 million to support the Research in Alternative Livelihoods Fund (RALF), which performs research into potential agricultural livelihoods options for rural Afghans. In addition, we support the Development of Sustainable Agriculture Livelihoods project in the Eastern Hazarajat (SALEH). This provides new and innovative ways for farmers to make a living in Eastern Hazarajat, for example, through honey-bee keeping and potato farming.

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department is taking to meet the Government's commitment to strengthen the work of the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Lashkar Gar in Helmand province as set out in the Enduring Relationship Action Plan 2006-07. [128613]

Margaret Beckett: Through the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Helmand Province, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials are leading a cross-governmental team in which development, governance, stabilisation, and police advisers are already working with the provincial government and local organisations to increase their capacity and to increase the stretch of the central Government. The PRT is now being strengthened by an additional five FCO officers to assist in this work. The Enduring Relationship Declaration and Action Plan highlights the UK's long term commitment to Afghanistan and its people, as they strive to achieve stability, security and prosperity.

Afghanistan: Scholarships

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening Scholarships have been awarded to Afghan students since 2001; and what plans there are to widen access to Chevening Scholarships for Afghan students. [128595]

Margaret Beckett: There has been a total of 84 Chevening Scholarships awarded to Afghan students since 2001.

Additionally, there were nine Chevening Fellowships awarded to Afghan students during this period.

For 2007-08 sufficient funding has been allocated to increase the number of Afghan Chevening students from 10 to 16.

British Nationality: Overseas Residence

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance and support is available to British citizens living and working abroad in countries other than EU countries, and who are married to a local citizen, if they are attacked or injured. [130887]

Dr. Howells: We can provide consular assistance to British nationals overseas, subject to certain exceptions for dual nationals, whether or not they normally live in the UK. The consular assistance we can provide to British nationals who are victims of crime or require medical assistance is set out in "Support for British nationals abroad: A Guide". This is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at www.fco.gov.uk A copy of the Consular Guide has also been placed in the Library of the House.

Burma

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 11W, on Burma, whether the UK is advocating a strengthening of the EU Common Position on Burma; and if she will make a statement. [128602]

Margaret Beckett: We believe that the present EU Common Position on Burma is the best achievable, given the views of some of our partners. Any additional measures would need the support of all other EU member states as the Common Position can only be amended by consensus. We do not believe that there would be consensus to amend the Common Position.

Burma: EU External Relations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will take steps to strengthen the EU Common Position on Burma when it comes up for renewal. [130529]

Mr. McCartney: The EU Common Position on Burma is adopted by consensus. Any amendment or strengthening of the Common Position need to be agreed unanimously. Our discussions within the EU have indicated there is no consensus to amend the Common Position. Given the views of some of our EU partners, we believe that the current Common Position is currently the best achievable policy. Despite criticisms of it, the Common Position is valuable in uniting 27 nations in an expression of concern about the abuse of human rights and lack of democracy inside Burma.

I raised the appalling human rights situation in Burma at the EU-Association of Southeast Asian Nations Foreign Ministers' meeting in Nuremberg on 15 March.

Burma: Ethnic Groups

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports she has received of the recent military activity by the Burmese Army in Karen state; and if she will make a statement; [130851]

(2) what recent reports she has received of *(a)* attacks by the Burmese Army on Karen civilians and *(b)* the displacement by the Burmese Army of civilians in the Mon Township; [130852]

(3) what recent reports she has received of attacks by the Burmese Army in the Papun District; and what her estimate is of the number of Karen villagers displaced by such attacks. [130859]

Mr. McCartney: We are aware of reports from the Free Burma Rangers of recent military activity in Mon Township and Papun District and the displacement of up to 1,400 people. Officials from our Embassy in Rangoon do not have access to conflict areas and cannot confirm the number of displaced people. We have repeatedly condemned attacks on civilians and remain concerned about the situation in conflict areas in Burma which has resulted in a significant increase in the number of internally displaced people and refugees on the Thai/Burmese border.

I raised our serious concerns about the Burmese army's offensive in Karen state when I called in the Burmese Ambassador on 15 June 2006 and wrote to the Burmese Foreign Minister on 5 July 2006.

Most recently, I raised the Burmese regime's appalling human rights record at the EU-Association of Southeast Asian Nations ministerial meeting in Nuremberg on 15 March in the presence of the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister.

Burma: Human Rights

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the implications of reports she has received in the treatment of women of ethnic minorities in Burma by the Burmese Army for initiatives to improve the Burmese Government's record in human rights; and if she will make a statement; [131130]

(2) what representations she has received on the treatment of Chin women in Burma by the *(a)* Burmese Army and *(b)* other Burmese state agencies; and if she will make a statement. [131139]

Mr. McCartney: We are aware of the report "Unsafe State" published by the Women's League of Chinland, documenting the abuses of Chin women at the hands of the Burmese authorities.

On 24 January, I met representatives from the Women's League of Chinland and the Chin Human Rights Organisation to discuss the many difficulties faced by the Chin community in Burma, including sexual violence.

We condemn the use of all forms of sexual violence and all other human rights violations. I raised the issue of sexual violence directly with the Burmese ambassador on 15 June 2006 and again in my letter to the Burmese Foreign Minister on 5 July 2006. I have raised our concerns about the human rights situation in Burma with the Governments of India, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan and South Korea.

I raised Burma at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 13 March. Most recently, I raised our concerns about Burma at the EU-Association of Southeast Asian

Nations ministerial meeting on 15 March in the presence of the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister.

We have helped to ensure that resolutions at the UN General Assembly have called for an end to the use of rape and sexual violence by the armed forces in Burma. We shall continue, bilaterally and with international partners, to urge the Burmese regime to pursue laws and practices which will put an end to the Burmese army's use of sexual violence.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legal steps the Government has taken to enforce the Geneva Convention following the statement in the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Burma on human rights abuses in conflict areas and humanitarian law. [131421]

Mr. McCartney: We have repeatedly called on the Burmese Government to comply with all international law and applicable humanitarian law and raised our concerns directly with the regime and in international fora most recently when I raised the issue in my intervention at the EU-Association of South East Asian Nations Foreign Ministers' meeting in Nuremberg on 14 March.

We fully support the work of Professor Pinheiro, the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma, and his reports on the Burmese regime's serious human rights violations.

Council of Europe

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost of the United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg was in 2005-06; and what the budgeted cost for the mission is in 2006-07. [130770]

Mr. Hoon: The local budget spend for financial year 2005-06 was £403,952 and is estimated to be £409,551 in 2006-07. This covers rent, rates, maintenance, furniture and utilities for all property, locally engaged staff pay (including pensions and social security), official travel and official vehicle costs, entertainment and other purchased goods and services.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* diplomatic service staff and *(b)* locally recruited staff are employed at the United Kingdom Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, broken down by pay grade. [130771]

Mr. Hoon: There are five diplomatic staff at Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pay grades A2, B3, C4, D7 and SMS2 and five locally recruited staff; two at FCO pay grades LEIIIA and one each at grades LEIIIB, LEIV and LEVc, employed at the UK Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the floor area is of rented accommodation occupied by the UK Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg; what the costs associated with that accommodation were in the last year for which figures are available; what the floor area is of accommodation owned by the UK Government in Strasbourg; what the running costs of those buildings were in the last year for which figures are available; and what the latest open market valuation is of those buildings. [130772]

Mr. Hoon: The floor space of rented accommodation occupied by the UK Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg is 940 square metres. This figure was 1,052 square metres in financial year 2005-06 and the rental costs were a total of £89,914.

The floor space of the only property owned by the Government in Strasbourg is 635 square metres.

Current accounting practices provide for a breakdown of running costs (utilities, rates, repairs and refurbishment) between residential and office accommodation, but not between owned and rented accommodation. The running costs for all accommodation in 2005-06 was £79,763, £46,068 for residential accommodation and £33,695 for office accommodation.

The latest valuation of the one owned property is £715,139 based on a 2006 survey.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials from Government Departments and agencies attended meetings at the Council of Europe *(a)* in Strasbourg and *(b)* elsewhere in each year between 2003 and 2006; how many visits for that purpose were made in each year; and how many overnight stays were associated with those visits in each year. [130773]

Mr. Hoon: There are approximately 80 Council of Europe committees attended by officials from Government Departments. The Government do not hold central records on all these attendances, the majority of which are independent of the UK Delegation to the Council of Europe based in Strasbourg. Several of the committees themselves have changed in structure and membership over the three-year period and are unlikely to maintain detailed attendance records. The information in the form requested is therefore not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by her Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130137]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to her by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East on 19 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2491W.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people in her Department participated in *(a)* involuntary and

(*b*) voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [131548]

Mr. Hoon: The number of officers who took early retirement from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on compensatory early retirement terms since 1997 are as follows:

	Number
1997-1998	54
1998-1999	25
1999-2000	35
2000-2001	21
2001-2002	23
2002-2003	25
2003-2004	33
2004-2005	68
2005-2006	172
2006-2007	74

We have not been able to identify the number of officers who departed involuntarily within these figures. To check individual records for this purpose would incur disproportionate cost. It is our policy to do all we can to avoid or minimise compulsory redundancies.

All the officers departed under the provisions of the civil service compensation schemes. As a result of the 2004 spending round we have carried out a restructuring exercise since 2004 to realise efficiency savings. This early retirement programme will enable us to reduce the size of the senior management structure in the FCO by 18 per cent. by 31 March 2008.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people in her Department who participated in (*a*) involuntary and (*b*) voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if she will make a statement. [131553]

Mr. Hoon: The following chart sets out the number of officers who have taken early retirement from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for each year since 2002 and the cost to the FCO of their compensation:

Total costs to FCO (£)	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
0-25,000	3	3	13	26	2
25,001-50,000	3	5	14	38	17
50,001-75,000	4	5	10	22	8
75,001-100,000	5	4	5	22	12
Over 100,001	10	16	26	70	35

We are unable to supply the requested information for the years 1997 to 2002; as this information is not readily available. To check individual records for this purpose, and to identify officers who may have taken involuntary early retirement, would incur disproportionate cost. It is our policy to do all we can to avoid compulsory redundancies.

The terms of the compensation we paid to these officers were those set out in the standard civil service compensation schemes. The amount is determined chiefly by age and pension entitlements.

As a result of the 2004 spending review we have carried out a restructuring exercise since 2004 to realise efficiency savings. This early retirement programme will enable us to reduce the size of the senior management structure in the FCO by 18 per cent. by 31 March 2008.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with EU partners on sharing embassies; and if she will make a statement. [130505]

Mr. Hoon: There have been no recent official ministerial discussions with EU partners on sharing embassies.

However, whenever a move of British Mission premises is under consideration, and where appropriate, officials explore the possibilities for co-location with EU partners and others.

Diplomatic Service: Languages

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many foreign language speakers were employed in the diplomatic service in each year between 1997 and 2006, broken down by language spoken. [130294]

Mr. Hoon: The following table shows the total number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff employed as of March 2007 who have a language qualification in one of the priority languages recorded on the FCO management information system.

FCO staff will have varying degrees of fluency in these priority languages. In order to provide a year on year breakdown of language qualifications we would need to extract both the start and end dates of the qualification. This information was not mandatory on the previous management information system and any breakdown would not provide a true reflection of the total number of staff who have a language qualification.

FCO priority languages (critical languages that directly help achieve FCO strategic priorities)	*Total number of FCO staff with a language qualification recorded on the FCO management information system March 2007*
Arabic	230
Burmese	9
Mandarin/Cantonese	141
Dari/Farsi/Pashtu	27
French	3,030
German	1,460
Indonesian	46
Italian	299
Japanese	152
Korean	24
Portuguese (Brazilian and European)	195
Russian	326

FCO priority languages (critical languages that directly help achieve FCO strategic priorities)	*Total number of FCO staff[1] with a language qualification recorded on the FCO management information system March 2007*
Spanish (Latin American and European)	1,056
Thai	42
Turkish	90
Urdu	49
Vietnamese	11

[1] Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff including a small number of monthly and fee paid officers.

Diplomatic Service: Retirement

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason the practice by retiring ambassadors of sending valedictory telegrams has ceased. [129829]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 29 March 2007]*: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is constantly modernising the way we operate. All Heads of Mission overseas are encouraged to provide their frank and confidential advice on policy and management issues at all stages of their posting, not just at the end. Modern communications allow this to be done in a more targeted way than the traditional valedictory telegram.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the valedictory telegram sent by Ambassador Roberts on the conclusion of his ambassadorship to Italy and his retirement from the diplomatic service. [129850]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 29 March 2007]*: Sir Ivor Roberts provided advice in his valedictory telegram on a confidential basis. Placing a copy of this telegram in the Library of the House would be likely to inhibit the frank and confidential provision of advice.

EU Gender Institute

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures *(a)* have taken place and *(b)* are planned in the UK by the EU Gender Institute; and if she will make a statement. [130662]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

The regulation establishing the Institute entered into force on 19 January 2007.

The Management Board is in the process of being set up.

European Union

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs following the statement in the Berlin Declaration, whether it is the Government's policy to support a treaty to give effect to the statement that member states are united in the aim of placing the European Union on a renewed common basis before the European Parliament elections in 2009; and whether she agreed to the statement. [131161]

Mr. Hoon: The Declaration, marking the 50th anniversary signing of the Treaties of Rome, is a political statement recalling the historic achievements of the last 50 years, and looking ahead to the challenges that we, the member states of the EU, need to face together. It was right that the UK was part of that celebration.

The Declaration was drafted by the German Presidency although they consulted member states, in the course of that process, on elements they wished to see included.

At present, there is no consensus among EU member states on the future of the Constitutional Treaty. The German Presidency will present a report to the June European Council on the state of discussions on the question. The Government make no presumption on the outcome of these discussions. Their approach was set out in my written ministerial statement of 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS.

European Union: Citizenship

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is taking under the Europe for Citizens programme (EU budget code 15 01 04 66); and if she will make a statement. [130639]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The UK supports the new Europe for Citizens Programme, which runs until 2013. The Government hope that citizens in the UK will take up opportunities the programme offers. These include co-operation projects such as town twinning, structural support for civil society organisations of general European interest and the preservation of the main sites and archives associated with the deportations and the commemoration of the victims of Nazism and Stalinism. The judging of eligible projects will be carried out by independent assessors from member states co-ordinated in Brussels by the Commission. As with all such EU programmes, bureaucracy is being reduced to make it easier for UK citizens to join with their counterparts in other EU countries in participating.

Iraq: Casualties

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of Iraqi civilian fatalities since the 2003 invasion. [131113]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1950-51W.

Iraq: Oil

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on disputes which might be considered by international courts or tribunals relating to the ownership and extraction rights of oil in Iraq. [130784]

Mr. Hoon: The Government have no policy on this matter. It is for the Government of Iraq to choose what measures it puts in place to resolve disputes in relation to its hydrocarbon sector.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what types of oil contracts her Department has considered for recommendation to the Iraqi Government; what representations her Department received from international oil companies on such contracts prior to making recommendations to the Iraqi Government; and what contract preferences were expressed by companies in such representations. [130785]

Mr. Hoon: We have made no recommendations to the Government of Iraq on the types of contract to include in its hydrocarbons legislation. We continue to urge Iraqi Ministers and officials to consider the benefits of a broad range of contract types and not to rule any out prematurely.

We have received no representations from international oil companies recommending particular contract types.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what definition she uses of (*a*) 'production-sharing agreements' for oil extraction and (*b*) 'exploration and production contracts' in the draft Iraqi hydrocarbons legislation. [130786]

Mr. Hoon: There is no mention of the term "production-sharing agreements" in Iraq's draft hydrocarbons legislation. The term 'exploration and production contract' does appear in the draft hydrocarbons legislation. However, interpretation of Iraqi legislation is a matter for the Government of Iraq.

Kazakhstan: Human Rights

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the restrictions on political liberty in Kazakhstan imposed by the Kazakh Government through the suspension of the registration of the Kazakh Conservative Party, the intimidation restrictions to freedom of speech and denial of fair access to political competition of party leaders and members; and if she will make a statement. [131383]

Mr. Hoon: We welcome the steps made by the Government of Kazakhstan since the December 2005 presidential election towards political reform and democratisation. These include in April 2006 the removal from the Election Law of the prohibition on the right of freedom of assembly in the period between the end of voting and publication of official results in elections. In February 2007, President Nazarbayev also created a working group to implement the key recommendations of the State Commission on Democratisation including the strengthening of Parliament's powers and increasing the authority of local town councils.

Political pluralism has been affected negatively by recent legislation which restricts freedom of expression, association and assembly. The powers of the Parliament and Government and the independence of the judiciary could be further enhanced to introduce checks and balances into the system of administration.

We welcome the registration on 26 January of one of the main opposition parties, the Social Democratic Party. There is no party officially registered, or seeking to register, as the Kazakh Conservative Party. Two centre-right parties, Alga! (Forward) and Atameken (Fatherland), have outstanding registration applications which have not yet been approved. In conjunction with EU partners and other interested parties, we will continue to encourage democratic progress in Kazakhstan and provide suitable assistance where possible.

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Nigeria on the recent murder of a school teacher in Gombe City; and if she will make a statement. [130672]

Mr. McCartney: We have not made representations to the Nigerian Government about the tragic killing of the teacher in Gombe. However, our high commission in Abuja has asked a leading Nigerian inter-faith group to make inquiries about the incident and brief them on their findings. It is important that the incident is also properly investigated by the appropriate Nigerian authorities. Through the high commission in Abuja we are sponsoring work by civil society organisations to promote inter-faith dialogue and prevent incidents of this kind.

Nigeria: Religious Freedom

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of religious freedom in Northern Nigeria; and what steps she has taken to work with the Nigerian Government on minimising the likelihood of religious freedom abuses in the future. [130673]

Mr. McCartney: There are tensions and frequent clashes between Christians and Muslims in northern Nigeria, and regular reports of discrimination, mainly against Christians. Religion is the pretext for most clashes, but many Nigerian religious leaders acknowledge that the root causes often lie in struggles for political power, scarce resources and ethnic dominance at local level.

Through our high commission in Abuja we are actively supporting projects to address religious tensions in northern Nigeria, as part of our efforts to prevent conflict and promote human rights in Nigeria as a whole. This includes the funding of training for police and magistrates in the humane application of Sharia law, and the work of non-governmental organisations to establish local early warning and conflict prevention mechanisms. Federal authorities and Government agencies, such as the Nigerian Police Force, are involved in these activities where appropriate, as are state Governments and senior religious leaders.

Occupied Territories: Property Transfer

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK position is on the legality of *(a)* marketing in the UK and *(b)* purchasing from the UK property for sale in settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories which are deemed illegal according to international law; and what advice the Government give to British companies and organisations on the legal status of such transactions. [130813]

Mr. Hoon: We regard all settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as illegal under international law and have repeatedly raised our concerns about settlement activity with the Israeli Government. The Government do not advise or encourage companies and organisations to market or sell property in the settlements, however it is not unlawful to do so under UK law.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what the UK position is on the purchasing in the UK of property in settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories which are deemed illegal according to international law; and if she will make a statement; [131286]

(2) if she will make a statement on the UK position on the legality of marketing in the UK property in settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories which are deemed illegal according to international law. [131359]

Mr. Hoon: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Northfield (Richard Burden) today (UIN 130813).

Philippines: Human Rights

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has *(a)* made to the Government of the Philippines and *(b)* received on extra-judicial killings of political activists; what discussions she has had with counterparts in the EU on human rights abuses in the Philippines; and if she will make a statement. [130733]

Mr. McCartney: We continue to be concerned about extra-judicial killings in the Philippines. We have urged the Philippine Government to address the problem, including through the appropriate involvement of the international community. In this regard, we welcomed the visit by Philip Alston, the UN special rapporteur on extra-judicial killings, to the Philippines in February and will encourage the Philippine Government to follow Professor Alston's recommendations. In August 2006, President Arroyo appointed a special commission to investigate the killings. The Melo Commission, headed by ex-Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo, concluded its investigations and produced a report of its findings in February. President Arroyo recently extended the tenure of the Melo Commission until June 2007, after which the Philippine Commission on Human Rights will investigate the issue further. President Arroyo has made a request to the EU to provide technical assistance for the investigation of extra-judicial killings. We will look at this positively. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received letters from members of the public and hon. Members, as well as some parliamentary questions, about extra-judicial killings. On 21 March, the UK raised the issue at a European Council working group meeting for Oceania and Asia affairs.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK diplomatic missions *(a)* hosted and *(b)* did not host parties to celebrate HM The Queen's birthday in 2006. [131104]

Mr. Hoon: The information the hon. Member has requested can be found in the following table:

Queen's Birthday Parties (QBP)

Countries with resident ambassadors where an official Queen's birthday party did not take place in 2006

Region	Country	Post	QBP
Asia Pacific	Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar	No
Africa	Algeria	Algiers	No

Countries where celebrations took place in 2006

Region	Country	Post	QBP
North America	USA	Washington	Yes
	USA	Los Angeles	Yes
	USA	Chicago	Yes
Caribbean	Dominica	Bridgetown	Yes
	Trinidad and Tobago	Port of Spain	Yes
South America	Argentina	Buenos Aires	Yes
	Bolivia	La Paz	Yes
	Brazil	Brasilia	Yes
	Brazil	Rio de Janeiro	Yes
	Brazil	São Paulo	Yes
	Chile	Santiago	Yes
	Colombia	Bogotá	Yes
	Costa Rica	San Jose	Yes
	Cuba	Havana	Yes
	Ecuador	Quito	Yes
	Guatemala	Guatemala City	Yes
	Guyana	Georgetown	Yes
	Mexico	Mexico City	Yes
	Panama	Panama City	Yes
	Peru	Lima	Yes
	Uruguay	Montevideo	Yes
	Venezuela	Caracas	Yes
Europe, Russia and South Caucasus	Albania	Tirana	Yes
	Armenia	Yerevan	Yes
	Austria	Vienna	Yes
	Belarus	Minsk	Yes
	Belgium	Brussels	Yes

Countries where celebrations took place in 2006

Region	*Country*	*Post*	*QBP*
	Belgium	UK Delegation to NATO	Yes
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo	Yes
	Bulgaria	Sofia	Yes
	Croatia	Zagreb	Yes
	Cyprus	Nicosia	Yes
	Czech Republic	Prague	Yes
	Denmark	Copenhagen	Yes
	Estonia	Tallinn	Yes
	Finland	Helsinki	Yes
	France	Paris Embassy with the UK Delegation to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	Yes
	France	Lyon	Yes
	France	Lille	Yes
	France	UK Delegation in Strasbourg	Yes
	Georgia	Tbilisi	Yes
	Germany	Berlin	Yes
	Germany	Dusseldorf	Yes
	Germany	Hamburg	Yes
	Germany	Munich	Yes
	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Yes
	Greece	Athens	Yes
	Hungary	Budapest	Yes
	Iceland	Reykjavik	Yes
	Ireland	Dublin	Yes
	Italy	Rome	Yes
	Italy	Holy See	Yes
	Italy	Naples	Yes
	Italy	Venice	Yes
	Italy	Genoa	Yes
	Italy	Trieste	Yes
	Italy	Milan	Yes
	Italy	Bari	Yes
	Italy	Catania	Yes
	Italy	Palermo	Yes
	Kazakhstan	Almaty	Yes
	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Yes
	Kazakhstan	Bishkek	Yes
	Latvia	Riga	Yes
	Lithuania	Vilnius	Yes
	Macedonia	Skopje	Yes
	Malta	Valletta	Yes
	Moldova	Chisinau	Yes
	Netherlands	Amsterdam	Yes
	Netherlands	The Hague	Yes
	Norway	Oslo	Yes
	Poland	Warsaw	Yes
	Portugal	Lisbon	Yes
	Romania	Bucharest	Yes

Countries where celebrations took place in 2006

Region	*Country*	*Post*	*QBP*
	Russia	St. Petersburg	Yes
	Russia	Moscow	Yes
	Russia	Ekaterinburg	Yes
	Serbia and Montenegro	Belgrade	Yes
	Slovakia	Bratislava	Yes
	Slovenia	Ljubljana	Yes
	Spain	Madrid	Yes
	Sweden	Stockholm	Yes
	Switzerland	Berne	Yes
	Turkey	Ankara	Yes
	Turkey	Istanbul	Yes
	Ukraine	Kiev	Yes
Africa	Angola	Luanda	Yes
	Botswana	Gabarone	Yes
	Burundi	Bujumbura	Yes
	Cameroon	Yaounde	Yes
	Congo (Democratic Republic)	Kinshasa	Yes
	Egypt	Cairo	Yes
	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	Yes
	The Gambia	Banjul	Yes
	Ghana	Accra	Yes
	Kenya	Nairobi	Yes
	Libya	Tripoli	Yes
	Malawi	Lilongwe	Yes
	Mauritius	Port Louis	Yes
	Morocco	Rabat	Yes
	Morocco	Casablanca	Yes
	Mozambique	Maputo	Yes
	Namibia	Windhoek	Yes
	Nigeria	Lagos	Yes
	Nigeria	Abuja	Yes
	Rwanda	Kigali	Yes
	Senegal	Dakar	Yes
	Seychelles	Victoria	Yes
	Sierra Leone	Freetown	Yes
	South Africa	Pretoria	Yes
	Sudan	Khartoum	Yes
	Swaziland	Mbabane	Yes
	Tanzania	Dar es Saalam	Yes
	Tunisia	Tunis	Yes
	Uganda	Kampala	Yes
	Zambia	Lusaka	Yes
	Zimbabwe	Harare	Yes
South and Central Asia	Afghanistan	Kabul	Yes
	Azerbaijan	Baku	Yes
	Bangladesh	Dhaka	Yes
	India	New Delhi	Yes
	India	Mumbai	Yes
	Nepal	Kathmandu	Yes
	Pakistan	Islamabad	Yes
	Pakistan	Peshawar	Yes

Countries where celebrations took place in 2006

Region	*Country*	*Post*	*QBP*
	Pakistan	Karachi	Yes
	Pakistan	Quetta	Yes
	Sri Lanka	Colombo	Yes
	Turkmenistan	Ashgabat	Yes
	Uzbekistan	Tashkent	Yes
Middle East	Bahrain	Bahrain	Yes
	Iraq	Baghdad	Yes
	Iraq	Basra	Yes
	Iraq	Kirkuk	Yes
	Iran	Tehran	Yes
	Israel	Tel Aviv	Yes
	Jerusalem	Jerusalem	Yes
	Jordan	Amman	Yes
	Kuwait	Kuwait	Yes
	Lebanon	Beirut	Yes
	Oman	Muscat	Yes
	Qatar	Doha	Yes
	Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Yes
	Saudi Arabia	Jeddah	Yes
	Saudi Arabia	Al Khobar	Yes
	Syria	Damascus	Yes
	Syria	Aleppo	Yes
	United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi	Yes
	United Arab Emirates	Dubai	Yes
	Yemen	Sana'a	Yes
Asia Pacific	Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan	Yes
	Burma	Rangoon	Yes
	Cambodia	Phnom Penh	Yes
	China	Beijing	Yes
	China	Guangzhou	Yes
	China	Hong Kong	Yes
	China	Macau	Yes
	Fiji	Suva	Yes
	Indonesia	Jakarta	Yes
	Japan	Tokyo	Yes
	Korea (North)	Pyongyang	Yes
	Korea (South)	Seoul	Yes
	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	Yes
	Philippines	Manila	Yes
	Singapore	Singapore	Yes
	Thailand	Bangkok	Yes

Official celebrations in Her Majesty The Queen's realms and in the UK's Overseas Territories come under the auspices of the respective governor-general/ governor of those countries and territories.

It was agreed (in 2003) with Buckingham Palace that QBPs need not take place every year. The frequency is at the discretion of the Head of Post, but a full reception should be held at least once during their tenure. In other years, smaller events such as a lunch may be held, according to local custom, though the birthday should be marked in some fashion.

Russia: Latvia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the recent Russia-Latvia treaty signed to formalise their mutual border. [131262]

Mr. Hoon: We welcomed the news that Latvia and Russia signed a border treaty on 27 March. We fully aligned ourselves with the EU presidency declaration of 28 March, in which the EU welcomed its signature and looked forward to the swift ratification of the treaty.

Somalia

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2017W, on Somalia, what discussions she has had with her *(a)* Ethiopian and *(b)* other African Union counterparts on the recent violence in Somalia; whether she has changed her assessment of the status of the Union of Islamic Courts following these discussions; and if she will make a statement. [130421]

Mr. Hoon: We are in close contact with both the African Union (AU) and the Ethiopian Government about the recent fighting in Somalia, which we utterly condemn. The Government calls on all parties in Somalia to reject violence and commit to peaceful dialogue. We are working with the AU and other members of the international community to try to facilitate the swift and effective deployment of the AU stabilisation mission to Somalia in order to create the conditions for Ethiopia to withdraw, whilst avoiding a security vacuum.

The Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) ceased to exist as an organisation after its collapse in December 2006. The Government have therefore not changed their assessment of the UIC, as given in my answer to the hon. Member on 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2017W.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the recent violence in Somalia; what assessment she has made of the likely impact of the violence on the further deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia; and if she will make a statement. [130257]

Margaret Beckett: The recent violence in Mogadishu represents a very real threat to the prospects for stability in Somalia. We condemn the attacks against African Union (AU) and other forces and call on those responsible to desist, and to work alongside the transitional federal institutions and the AU in helping to restore governance to Somalia. We continue to believe that an AU stabilisation force is the most effective way of assisting Somalia to secure the stability and peace its people so badly want.

Somalia: Ethiopia

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the humanitarian impact of the Ethiopian invasion of Somalia; what discussions she has had with her *(a)* United States and *(b)* Kenyan counterparts on the treatment of Somalian refugees; and if she will make a statement. [130423]

Mr. Hoon: We are very concerned about humanitarian conditions throughout Somalia. Although food security appears to have improved compared to 2006, the current high risk of conflict may generate widespread additional humanitarian needs. According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, up to 100,000 more people may have been displaced since early February.

According to UN agencies, humanitarian conditions in the refugee camps are difficult, with ongoing high levels of child malnutrition. The Kenyan authorities have gone to great lengths in offering shelter to the 174,000 Somalis currently believed to be in camps, and they have legitimate security concerns about the influx of large numbers of Somalis. However, we remain concerned that, since the beginning of the year, they have denied entry to the camps to some Somalis genuinely seeking to flee from conflict. Our high commissioner in Nairobi raised the issue of the border closure with the Kenyan Minister of Foreign Affairs in early January. And the UK has supported a similar approach by the EU presidency. The UK participated in a US-hosted senior level donor round table in late January about the humanitarian impact of the closure of the border with Somalia and we have ongoing discussions with the USAID Office for Disaster Assistance and the USAID Office of Food for Peace about remedial action.

The UK was the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor to Somalia in 2006 and committed £16 million towards emergency relief activities through the UN and non-governmental organisation partners.

Somalia: Official Visits

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2017W, on Somalia: official visits, when she expects Ethiopian troops to complete their withdrawal from Somalia; and if she will make a statement. [130258]

Mr. Hoon: We understand Ethiopia has been gradually withdrawing its forces over the past weeks.

At the same time, we recognise that until an effective and appropriate alternative is in place a complete Ethiopian withdrawal could risk a dangerous security vacuum. For this reason, we strongly support the deployment of the Africa Union stabilisation force (AMISOM). The UK-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1744, unanimously adopted, explicitly authorises (the establishment of AMISOM and we have offered logistical, planning and financial support to the force to help it deploy as soon as possible. On UK contributions to AMISOM, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe (Mr. Hoon), today (UIN 130261).

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2017W, on Somalia: official visits, what recent discussions she has had with her *(a)* United States and *(b)* EU counterparts on the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM); what commitments have been made to support AMISOM as a result of these discussions; and if she will make a statement. [130259]

Margaret Beckett: My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, and officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, have been in frequent contact with US and EU colleagues, both bilaterally and in international fora, including the UN and the International Contact Group for Somalia, regarding the African Union's (AU) stabilisation mission to Somalia (AMISOM). I have also discussed it with my EU colleagues at recent EU Foreign Ministers' meetings. We urge a prompt, focused and co-ordinated international response to help Somalis seize this historic opportunity for stability, which is what Somalia needs above all.

AMISOM is a key element in bringing stability to Somalia. For this reason, the UK sponsored United Nations Security Council Resolution 1744, adopted unanimously on 20 February. The Resolution explicitly authorises the deployment of AMISOM, as well as recognising the need for a reconciliation and a political process in Somalia, and permitting support to the Transitional Federal Government and Institutions to develop their own security sector. We commend the AU for taking on this mission and are grateful to those countries that have so far offered to contribute personnel to AMISOM.

On UK contributions to AMISOM, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe, today (UIN 130261).

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2017W, on Somalia: official visits, which African Union countries have pledged troop contributions to the African Union Mission in Somalia; how many troops they have pledged; when she expects those contributing to deploy those troops; and if she will make a statement. [130260]

Margaret Beckett: Uganda has pledged nearly 1,700 troops to Somalia as part of the African Union (AU) stabilisation force (AMISOM), most of which we believe have now deployed. We understand that Ghana, Burundi, Nigeria and Malawi have also pledged troops to AMISOM, which would bring the total numbers to around 4,000, although the timeframe for these deployments remains unclear.

The UK has made clear its strong support for AMISOM and believes that a prompt and effective AMISOM deployment is vital for bringing long-term stability to Somalia. For this reason, we are discussing

with several potential troop contributing countries what support we might best provide them. We have also offered direct support to the AU. On UK contributions to AMISOM, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe today (UIN 130261).

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her Answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2017W, on Somalia: official visits, what financial and logistical support the British Government are contributing to the African Union Mission in Somalia; and if she will make a statement. [130261]

Mr. Hoon: The Government believe it is vital that a successful African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) deployment ensures lasting stability in Somalia. The UK has offered planning, and logistical support for a Somalia planning cell within the AU's Peace and Security Operations Division in Addis Ababa. The UK has also offered planning, logistical and financial assistances direct to troop contributing countries.

We strongly support the early disbursement of the EU's pledge of €15 million to AMISOM.

Somalia: Terrorism

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the extent of the presence of al-Qaeda in Somalia; and if she will make a statement. [130422]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to my hon. Friend the Member for Islington, North (Jeremy Corbyn) on 10 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 281-82.

Al-Qaeda seeks to exploit ungoverned space to advance its terrorist agenda. Therefore, we are working with the international community to re-build the Somali State, through the establishment of Transitional Federal Institutions, in order to bring peace and stability to the country. This will make it more difficult for al-Qaeda to operate in Somalia.

In the meantime, we continue to work with the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, and our international allies, in tackling the threat posed by al-Qaeda from Somalia.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to raise with the Government of Sri Lanka the disappearance of Pastor Victor Yogarajan and three others in Negombo on 2 March. [131141]

Dr. Howells: We have made no specific representations to the Sri Lankan Government about the case of the disappearance of Pastor Victor Yogarajan and others in Negombo on 2 March. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke with her counterpart the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister in March about the situation faced by the civilian population as a result of the escalated conflict and raised our concerns about human rights.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the political situation in Sri Lanka. [130515]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 29 March 2007]*: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers that I and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 828-29W and 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 283 respectively. I restate that the UK urges both sides to the conflict to pursue a peaceful solution and to do more to protect the civilian population.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. [127162]

Margaret Beckett: Lack of buy-in from a broad range of rebel groups means that there has only been limited progress with the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), particularly on the wealth sharing and security provisions. But a few of the power-sharing provisions of the DPA have been implemented. Minni Minawi was appointed Special Assistant to the President, and nominations have been made to some positions on the Transitional Darfuri Regional Authority and other bodies, but this remains insufficient.

We have been funding work to help the African Union (AU) explain the benefits of the DPA to the people of Darfur. And we are funding an expert to support the AU in preparing the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation.

A renewed political process, which brings in as broad a range of the Darfur population as possible, is needed.

At the UN high level meeting in Addis Ababa last November, the AU and UN committed to convening a meeting between the signatories (Government of Sudan and Minni Minawi's group) and non-signatories to the DPA. The UN and AU envoys for the political process (Jan Eliasson and Salim Ahmed Salim) visited Sudan together from 23 to 28 March.

We are very concerned at the slow pace of progress on the political track and are in touch with the UN and AU at all levels to urge faster movement.

Syrian Arab Republic: Kamal al-Labwani

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1202W, on the Syrian Arab Republic: Kamal al-Labwani, what steps UK officials in Damascus are taking to monitor the ongoing detention of Dr Kamal al-Labwani. [131021]

Mr. Hoon: UK officials, together with their EU colleagues, attend the court cases of Dr. Kamal al-Labwani wherever possible. They are also in regular contact with Dr. al-Labwani's lawyers and members of his family. Officials from our embassy in Damascus and EU colleagues attended Dr. al-Labwani's latest court appearance on 10 April, at which the judge postponed the trial to 10 May. Dr. al-Labwani was allowed to greet family, friends and diplomats. With EU partners We continue to make our concerns known to the Syrian authorities.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1202W, on the Syrian Arab Republic: Kamal al-Labwani, what her most recent assessment is of the conditions in which Dr. Kamal al-Labwani is being held; and if she will make a statement. [131332]

Mr. Hoon: Since his last court appearance, Dr. Kamal al-Labwani has been held in solitary confinement at Adra criminal prison. He was released from solitary confinement a few days before his court appearance on 10 April. At this appearance the judge postponed the trial to 10 May. Dr. al-Labwani was also allowed to greet family, friends and diplomats. Officials from our embassy in Damascus and EU colleagues attended the trial on 10 April and will continue to follow the progress of the case closely. With EU partners we continue to make our concerns known to the Syrian authorities about human rights in Syria.

Turkey: EC Enlargement

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Turkish counterpart on the steps Turkey is taking to comply with EU rules to allow it to progress with membership of the EU. [131263]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Turkey on 26-27 March and had a productive meeting with Foreign Minister Gul, which included discussion of Turkey's EU accession process. The UK continues to encourage Turkey to take the steps necessary to meet the requirements of the acquis. Progress is being made with the EU and Turkey agreeing on 29 March formally to open negotiations on enterprise and industrial policy.

USA: Prince Charles

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what costs of visits to the US by the Prince of Wales were met from the public purse over the last 12 months, broken down by *(a)* visit, *(b)* travel, *(c)* accommodation, *(d)* visit participant, *(e)* gifts and *(f)* other expenses; what the purpose of each such visit was; where the proposal for each such visit originated; what (i) proportion of and (ii) events within each such visit were organised by, or on behalf of, the Prince's charities or foundations; and if she will make a statement. [129558]

Margaret Beckett: The visit to the United States by his Royal Highness (HRH) the Prince of Wales and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall from 26-29 January is the only visit over the last 12 months where costs were met from public funds. I shall write to my hon. Friend as soon as the accounts for the visit have been finalised, and will place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

The purpose of the visit was to reinforce our relationship with the United States, with a particular focus on youth development, urban regeneration and the environment in support of the Government's best practice agenda. The visit was approved by the Royal Visits Committee as part of our continuing engagement with the United States at the highest level. There were no publicly-funded events organised on behalf of HRH the Prince of Wales' charities or foundations.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she plans to make to her European Union counterparts on the extension of existing EU sanctions against Zimbabwe; and if she will make a statement. [129975]

Margaret Beckett: We have proposed to EU partners that the key perpetrators of the violence on 11 March should be added to the list of those subject to a visa ban and assets freeze.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she last discussed Zimbabwe with her South African counterpart; and what the outcome was of the discussion. [129976]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 600W.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been frozen under measures applied in accordance with the EU Common Position on Zimbabwe. [129978]

Margaret Beckett: In the United Kingdom, 42 accounts containing a total of £172,000 are currently frozen under the terms of the EU Common Position.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations encouraging the Government of Zimbabwe to provide medical assistance to pro-democracy activists detained following a prayer meeting in Highfield, Harare in March 2007. [131244]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend, the Foreign Secretary called for all those who were arrested and beaten following the prayer meeting at Highfield to be given immediate access to proper medical attention. My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, made similar representations directly to the Zimbabwe Ambassador on 13 March.

Those arrested on 11 March were eventually released and received medical attention in private hospitals.

TRANSPORT

A1307: Accidents

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the *(a)* total number of accidents, *(b)* average daily traffic flow and *(c)* accident rate per million vehicle kilometres was for the stretch A1307 between the junctions with the A143 in Haverhill and the A11 in Abington in each of the last 10 years; and what the latest figures are for 2007; [130976]

(2) how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured on the stretch of the A1307 between the junctions with the A143 in Haverhill and the A11 in Abington in each of the last 10 years; and what the latest figures are for 2007. [130975]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of reported personal injury road accidents, the number of resulting casualties, the annual average daily traffic flow and the accident rate per million vehicle kilometres, for the road requested are given in the table for each year from 1996 to 2005. 2005 is the most recent year for which data are available. Data for 2007 will be available in summer 2008.

Number of accidents, annual average daily traffic flow, accident rate per million vehicle kilometres and number of casualties on the A1307 between the junction of A143 in Haverhill and the A11 at Little Abington in Cambridge, 1996-2005

	Number of accidents[1]	AADF[2]	Accident rate[3]	Killed	Injured
1996	18	12,800	0.27	1	24
1997	25	14,800	0.32	0	43
1998	29	15,200	0.37	2	50
1999	32	15,600	0.39	4	54
2000	26	16,300	0.30	1	38
2001	30	16,200	0.35	1	43
2002	22	16,600	0.25	3	32
2003	27	16,800	0.31	3	35
2004	30	17,200	0.33	1	46
2005	41	16,700	0.47	1	64

[1] Personal injury road accidents reported to the police.
[2] Annual average daily traffic flow.
[3] Accident rate per million vehicle-kilometres.

A6 and A45 Interchange

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will visit Higham Ferriers to discuss proposed improvements to the Chown Mills A6/A45 interchange with the hon. Member for Wellingborough and constituents. [131665]

Dr. Ladyman: There are no immediate plans by the Secretary of State to visit Higham Ferrers. The A45 is categorised as a regional route. The East Midlands region advised in January 2006 that, within their indicative regional funding allocation, a potential grade-separation scheme was not a priority for funding in the period up to 2015/16. It will be for the region to review the priority for such a scheme in future rounds of the regional funding process.

In the meantime, the Highways Agency will undertake a junction capacity review of Chowns Mill junction in 2007/2008. This review will investigate what interim measures can be introduced, short of a grade separation, to alleviate the current operational problems at the Chowns Mill Interchange.

Biofuels: North West Region

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to promote alternative fuels in the north-west in the last five years. [130718]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government encourage the use of alternative fuels through reduced rates of Vehicle Excise Duty for cars run on certain alternative fuels and registered after 1 March 2001, and through differentials in fuel duty between petrol and diesel and other fuels. There are no specific initiatives for the north-west.

The Government also provide funds to the Energy Saving Trust to run an Infrastructure grant programme. The grants assist the building of refuelling stations for alternative fuels (natural gas/biogas, hydrogen and bio-ethanol).

The Government are also due to introduce a Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation in April 2008 which will ensure a significant and stable market for biofuels in the UK, and is likely to mean that biofuels are available in low blends at the majority of forecourts in the UK.

British Railways Board (Residuary)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people are employed by the British Railways Board (Residuary); what that body's budget was in 2006-07; and what the functions of the residuary body are. [131059]

Mr. Tom Harris: BRB (Residuary) Ltd. (BRBR) currently employs 36 full-time equivalent members of staff. The company is forecast to incur net costs of £35.7 million in 2006-07 and generate gross sales proceeds of £71.5 million. These figures are subject to audit.

BRBR was created as a consequence of the privatisation of the railways and discharges a range of legacy responsibilities inherited from the British Railways Board. These responsibilities include the management of industrial injury claims submitted by ex-British Rail employees and the management and disposal of a diverse property portfolio.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pensioners in Hartlepool constituency *(a)* are eligible for and *(b)* have used the free local bus travel scheme. [130900]

Gillian Merron: *(a)* The number of residents of Hartlepool aged 60 and over, who, from 1 April 2006, are entitled to free off-peak local bus travel is around 19,200.

(b) Information on take-up of the concession in Hartlepool is not held centrally. Local authorities hold details of their residents who applied for concessionary travel.

Bypasses: Kettering

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what joint assessment the Highways Agency has made with the local highways authority of the case for a new eastern bypass around Kettering. [131658]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency has not carried out any joint assessment with Northamptonshire county council of the case for a new eastern bypass around Kettering.

Such a bypass would not be a trunk road proposal as it would cater mainly for local traffic. However, North Northamptonshire Development Company and Northamptonshire county council are considering the need for a new distributor road to the east of Kettering as part of the proposed urban extension. This road is referred to in the draft North Northamptonshire core spatial strategy. Such a scheme would only be promoted by developers and/or the county council.

Driving Offences: Insurance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of motor vehicle accidents in England involving drivers without adequate insurance. [131124]

Dr. Ladyman: The latest figures available on uninsured accidents reported in the UK to the Motor Insurers' Bureau are as follows:

	2004	*2005*
Uninsured drivers	28,518	24,367
Untraced drivers	13,072	13,221

No separate breakdown is available for England alone.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of regular drivers without adequate insurance in England. [131125]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my Friend the hon. Member for Cannock Chase (Dr. Wright) on Thursday 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1063W. Separate figures for England are not available.

Exhaust Emissions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress he has made on the emissions cost assessment initiative announced in December 2006. [131727]

Gillian Merron: As we announced in the future of air transport progress report last December, we intend to launch a consultation on the development of an emissions cost assessment for the aviation sector in the first half of 2007.

First Great Western: Rolling Stock

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the additional 1,000 train carriages that he proposes to introduce he expects to be used on the First Great Western network. [130864]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is too early to say where precisely the additional rolling stock will be used. The deployment of new rolling stock will be agreed with the industry following the publication of the High Level Output Specification and the long-term rail strategy this summer, in accordance with the Periodic Review timetable set out in the Office of Rail Regulation's advice to Minister published in February 2007.

HGV Drivers

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1245W, on HGV drivers, what steps he is taking to ensure that foreign-licensed HGV (or its equivalent) drivers with medical conditions which would make them ineligible for HGV licences in the UK, but not in other countries, are unable to drive in the UK. [130913]

Dr. Ladyman: EU licence holders who live in the UK have a legal obligation to notify DVLA of certain existing and worsening medical conditions. Failure to do so is a road traffic offence, carrying a penalty of £1,000. This information is available through a number of channels, including guidance leaflets.

Holders of EC/EEA licences are required to register with the DVLA vocational (LGV/PCV) entitlement to drive, within 12 months of becoming resident here. The registration process aims to ensure that these drivers meet the UK health and conduct standards.

New residents from non-EC/EEA countries may not drive vehicles over 3.5 tonnes until they have passed the relevant British driving test.

Enforcement of road traffic law is a matter for individual chief officers of police.

HM Coastguard: Privatisation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what consultation his Department has held with *(a)* the Fire and Rescue Service and *(b)* the Fire Brigades Union on the part-privatisation of HM Coastguard; [131403]

(2) when preferred bidders will be announced for the part-privatisation of HM Coastguard; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the specification; [131404]

(3) what the estimated cost savings are of the part-privatisation of HM Coastguard; and how those savings are to be made. [131405]

Dr. Ladyman: There are no plans to privatise HM Coastguard.

The Department and the Ministry of Defence have started the procurement process under the private finance initiative for the harmonised provision of search and rescue helicopter services from 2012. This

decision provides an opportunity to bring together the current search and rescue helicopter providers into one service under a single contract providing the taxpayer with value for money. The service will continue to be managed jointly by the Ministry of Defence and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Invalid Vehicles

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to require users of electric wheelchairs and scooters to *(a)* undertake training before using the equipment and *(b)* take out insurance cover. [131168]

Gillian Merron: The Department has published research, a copy of which has been placed in the house Library, into the training and insurance aspects of electric wheelchair and scooter use. The research examines whether existing arrangements balance the needs of mobility vehicle users with the safety of other road and pavement users. The research findings are currently under consideration and will be acted upon shortly.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to reply to the letter of 21 February 2007 from the hon. Member for Billericay, on the concessionary fare scheme. [130724]

Gillian Merron: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 29 March 2007.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has undertaken into the enforcement of civil traffic penalties against foreign registered vehicles in the UK. [129294]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has not commissioned research into this subject. The Department is a member of the Shared Parking and Registered Keeper Information Service in which traffic authorities in the UK and other EU member states co-operate to enforce cross-border traffic violations. That service has conducted research into levels of civil traffic violations with particular reference to foreign-registered vehicles.

Motorcycles: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his estimate is of the cost of implementing the final provisions of the second European driving licence directive for motorcycles; and how much of the estimated cost is to be spent on super test sites. [131135]

Dr. Ladyman: The total estimated cost of implementing the second European driving licence directive for motorcycles is £60,537,000.

Of this amount, £60,000,000 is for the acquisition, design construction and development of multi-purpose test centres (MPTCs). The remainder of £537,000 has been allocated for equipment, training and site set-up costs.

These MPTCs will satisfy the requirements of the second European driving licence directive for motorcycles, but will also cater for other types of test, including practical motor-car tests.

Pedestrian Crossings

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the expected spending in future years is on the non-motorised user crossings programme. [131198]

Dr. Ladyman: It is not possible to predict future spending on the non-motorised user crossing programme as most of the schemes are delivered as part of larger improvements. Investigations are scheduled over a number of years and not all will result in schemes being taken forward. In addition, all new highways schemes receive a non-motorised user audit and this may result in further schemes that are not currently identified in the programme. Highways Agency expenditure for the three years from 2008-09 will be determined in the spending review to be concluded later in the year.

Public Transport: Greater London

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1382W, on public transport: Greater London, whether any legislative change is required for the development of London Works. [131205]

Gillian Merron: There are no legislative changes required for the development of London Works. It will support the management of both the existing regulatory regime for works carried out by undertakers under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA), and the new regulations that reflect changes to NRSWA by the Traffic Management Act 2004.

Railways: Franchises

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timetable is for decisions on rail franchises under consideration; and if he will make a statement. [131705]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State will announce the award of the Intercity East Coast Franchise, the East Midlands Franchise, the West Midlands Franchise and the Cross Country Franchise in summer 2007.

Railways: Litter

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to improve the collection of rubbish off the trackside of the rail network. [131231]

Mr. Tom Harris: Responsibility for the clearance of rubbish from the trackside is an operational matter for

Network Rail, as the owner and operator of the national rail network. Network Rail has its own operational arrangements and policies relating to clearance, consistent with current legislation.

The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question:

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1384W, on Railways: Portsmouth, what estimate he has made of the end date for the continued engineering overrun in the Portsmouth area; and if he will make a statement. [131326]

Mr. Tom Harris: Stagecoach South Western Trains (SSWT) has advised the Department that they continue to have detailed discussions with Network Rail regarding the engineering overrun in the Portsmouth area and to date Network Rail have been unable to confirm a revised completion date with SSWT.

SSWT has made appropriate changes to its timetable to ensure that it is able to maintain the best service given the restrictions to access.

Rights of Way

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of local authorities' rights of way improvement plans. [129401]

Barry Gardiner: I have been asked to reply.

In its role as a statutory consultee, Natural England has been reviewing, and offering guidance on, individual rights of way improvement plans as they are being prepared. The quality of those adopted so far is reported to be generally very good. By the middle of last month, 14 per cent. of local highway authorities in England had adopted plans—well in advance of the 21 November 2007 deadline. A further 66 per cent. were expected to meet the deadline. I wrote to the chief executives of the remaining 20 per cent. on 27 February 2007 to remind them of their statutory obligations.

I cannot comment on the progress of rights of way improvement plans in Wales as the National Assembly Government have delegated authority in this area.

Speed Limits: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fixed speed cameras are located in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex, broken down by site and district council area. [130938]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not hold this information, but does have the information for the area covered by the Sussex Safety Camera Partnership, analysed by local authority. The details are shown in the following table.

Local authority	*Number*
Brighton and Hove	9
East Sussex county council	14
Highways Agency (Sussex)	4
West Sussex county council	25
Grand total	52

The National Safety Camera Programme ceased on 29 March 2007 and the response represents data held as at that date. Future operation and deployment of safety cameras will be under the control of local partnerships, who will be better able to supply up to date information.

Speed Limits: East Yorkshire

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fixed speed cameras there are in East Yorkshire, broken down by site; when each camera was installed; what assessment he has made of the impact of each camera on road safety; and if he will make a statement. [130806]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not hold this information, but does have the information for the area covered by the Humberside Safety Camera Partnership, analysed by local authority. The details are shown in the following table.

Local authority	*Established*	*Site name*
Kingston upon Hull	10 May 2005	A1165/Clough Road, Hull
Kingston upon Hull	10 May 2005	Spring Bank West, Hull/Princes Avenue to Chanterlands Avenue
Kingston upon Hull	1 August 2005	Beverley Road , Hull

The most recent assessment is the independent four-year evaluation of the National Safety Camera Programme, published on 15 December 2005. This confirms that safety cameras continue to be a valuable and cost-effective method of enforcing speed limits, and cameras in Humberside showed casualty reductions greater than the national average.

The National Safety Camera Programme ceased on 29 March 2007 and the response represents data held as at that date. Future operation and deployment of safety cameras will be under the control of local partnerships, who will be better able to supply up-to-date information.

Taxis: Kent

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on improving safety for taxi drivers in *(a)* Gravesham and *(b)* Kent in the latest period for which figures are available. [130990]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not hold any figures on how much is spent on improving safety for taxi drivers by local authorities and other local bodies. However, we are aware that a number of initiatives have

been funded through local transport plans, crime and disorder reduction partnerships and similar sources.

Recognising the importance of safety, we are, at the national level, funding a research project into the personal security of taxi and PHV drivers and relevant measures that can be taken to improve the position. The project began in January and is expected to take 12 months to complete.

Also included in the best practice guidance to taxi and PHV licensing authorities is the advice that authorities should look sympathetically on, or actively encourage, installation in vehicles of measures to improve drivers' safety. Attention has also been drawn to Home Office information on crime reduction measures including the provision of CCTV.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agricultural Wages Board

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for the retention of the Agricultural Wages Board; and what assessment he has made of the implications of the introduction of the national minimum wage for the board's role and functions. [125965]

Barry Gardiner: The Agricultural Wages Board provides a pay structure for the agricultural workers linking minimum pay rates, qualifications and experience. This goes beyond the protection given by the national minimum wage arrangements. Given the fragmented and isolated nature of the agricultural workforce, the strong links between home and job, and the need to protect migrant and seasonal workers from exploitation, the Government decided to retain the agricultural minimum wage when the national minimum wage was introduced in 1999. These concerns remain valid today and the Government consider that it is appropriate to maintain the current protections given to agricultural workers.

Agriculture: Air Pollution

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the risk of making public applications for compliance with the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations. [127376]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 require advertisement in the local press and in the *London Gazette*, that a permit application has been made. A copy of the permit application itself, and any permit issued as a result, are required by the Regulations to be held on the Public Register maintained by the Environment Agency at its relevant local office.

If the Secretary of State is of the opinion that making information available in this way would be contrary to the interests of national security, he may direct that the information should not be made available. Similarly, if an applicant considers that information which would be made available is commercially confidential, he may apply to the regulator for it not to be made available and may appeal to the Secretary of State if he is dissatisfied with the regulator's decision. In these ways, the risks of publication can be assessed.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to cap payments to farmers and farm businesses. [130712]

Barry Gardiner: Under the rules of the Common Agricultural Policy the UK has no authority to cap payments to farmers and farm businesses. Nor do we think it is an effective or rational way of distributing farm support.

The European Commission proposed a cap of 300,000 euros as part of Agenda 2000. We opposed this on the basis it would: distort the industry by discouraging the adoption of sensible, market-based, business models; prove administratively burdensome; and imbalance the CAP budget by further penalising net contributors like the UK and Germany.

Air Pollution: Government Departments

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is considering to reduce the amount of carbon emissions that Government buildings produce. [130717]

Ian Pearson: Working with the Carbon Trust, DEFRA has developed a systematic approach to carbon management and is actively engaged in identifying carbon reduction opportunities through operational improvements, reduced energy costs, staff awareness and monitoring initiatives.

A system for benchmarking, monitoring and analysing utility usage across the estate has been created which highlights buildings where substantial energy savings can be made. Focusing on these sites has helped identify key projects which will return major savings on energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Among other smaller projects, three major 'voltage optimisation' projects which could save the Department a potential 900 tonnes of carbon per year (8 per cent. of DEFRA's total annual carbon emissions) are currently being assessed with a view to implementation before the end of the financial year. The success of these pilot projects will influence the roll out of further initiatives in the new financial year.

Avian Influenza: North West Region

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what strategies his Department has in place to combat *(a)* avian influenza and *(b)* foot and mouth disease in the North West. [130719]

Mr. Bradshaw: The key to effective disease control is good surveillance, early detection and rapid response. DEFRA's Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases, which is available on the DEFRA website, covers arrangements for response to outbreaks of avian influenza and foot and mouth disease. Our contingency

planning was tested by the avian influenza case in Suffolk earlier this year and it coped well.

The North West Regional Resilience Forum has drafted a North West Exotic Animal Disease Plan that complements DEFRA's plan and would be implemented in the event of an outbreak requiring a response from the full range of regional resilience partners.

DEFRA has also issued extensive guidance to bird and livestock keepers on biosecurity measures to protect their stock from animal diseases, including avian influenza and foot and mouth disease.

Biofuels

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of set aside is being cultivated for biofuel and biomass crops. [130098]

Ian Pearson: Of the 360,000 or so hectares English farmers are obliged to set aside, some 76,000 hectares (21 per cent.), have been entered into contracts under the non-food set-aside arrangements for the 2006 Single Payment Scheme. The majority of the hectares concerned would be used for energy purposes, but the precise number could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned on the effects on biodiversity of biomass and biofuel crops. [130099]

Ian Pearson: My Department funds an ongoing programme of research on Non Food Crops, which includes assessing the effects of energy crops on biodiversity. In particular, we are funding an extension to the RELU-biomass (Rural Economy and Land Use) project to asses field-scale impacts on biodiversity from New Crops. New research for 2007 is planned to model the landscape scale impacts of biomass crops on biodiversity.

Current evidence indicates that, in comparison with arable crops, energy crops such as short rotation coppice and miscanthus can encourage biodiversity, particularly for birds and insects, although the species composition may differ from those normally found on arable land.

Biofuels: Hemp

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential to grow hemp as a biofuel crop in England. [130749]

Ian Pearson: Research into the potential of hemp as a biofuel crop suggests it is not currently competitive compared to other sources of biomass. However, hemp does have a number of high-value end uses. For example, as a fibre crop it is used in car panels, construction and as horse bedding. In addition, hempseed oil is used in food, cosmetics and various industrial applications. As a result, there is little interest in this country at present in growing it for biofuel production.

Bluetongue Disease

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the national plan for tackling bluetongue disease will be published. [131319]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Bluetongue Control Strategy agreed in 2002, which is available on the DEFRA website, sets out the disease control measures which the UK would use in the event of an outbreak of Bluetongue. The Strategy is currently under review (in partnership with industry) in light of experience and epidemiological evidence from the 2006 Northern European outbreak, and may therefore be subject to amendment.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what compensation packages are in place for farmers whose stock *(a)* become infected with bluetongue disease and *(b)* need to be contiguously culled. [131320]

Mr. Bradshaw: As Bluetongue is spread via vectors (that is, midges), rather than from animal to animal, compulsory slaughter of ruminants infected with bluetongue would not normally form part of our control strategy. We would not, therefore, expect any compensation to be payable.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the maximum distance a midge infected with bluetongue can travel. [131386]

Mr. Bradshaw: The species of Culicoides midge, which has acted as a vector for disease in the current North European outbreak, is different from the species which have traditionally acted as the vector in Southern Europe and Africa. The European Food Standard Agency are currently conducting a detailed epidemiological analysis of the North European outbreak, including details of vector biology and behaviour.

From initial studies it can be roughly estimated that a midge can travel up to 1.5-2 kilometres (km) a day in a local area. However, if caught in suitable meteorological conditions, midges can be carried much farther (that is, more than 200 km) especially over water masses. All of these details are an approximation and vary according to local environmental, topographical and meteorological conditions.

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the size is of the restricted area needed to isolate a farm from bluetongue; [130983]

(2) what plans he has made to combat an outbreak of bluetongue disease. [130984]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Bluetongue Order 2003 implements, in England, the requirements of European Union Council Directive 2000/75/EEC, which lays down specific measures for the control and eradication

of Bluetongue. Similar legislation applies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The legislation provides for measures (including veterinary investigation and movement restrictions) on premises where the presence of disease is suspected. When disease is confirmed, an initial zone of 20 kilometres (km) radius, a Protection Zone (PZ) of at least 100 km radius and Surveillance Zone (SZ) (at least 50 km beyond the PZ) would be established surrounding the infected premises. The measures applying to suspect premises are maintained and extended to all premises with susceptible animals in the 20 km zone. There is also a ban on the movement of animals out of the PZ, or out of the SZ, although some derogations from movement restrictions may be allowed, in agreement with the European Commission.

The Bluetongue Control Strategy, agreed in 2002, which is available on the DEFRA website, sets out the disease control measures in more detail. The strategy is currently under review (in partnership with industry) in light of experience and epidemiological evidence from the 2006 Northern European outbreak, and may therefore be subject to amendment.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the reliability of the use of tuberculin manufactured in Holland to identify cattle with bovine tuberculosis. [131312]

Mr. Bradshaw: In August last year, the Chief Veterinary Officer issued a report on the possible reasons for the reduction in the number of new tuberculosis (TB) incidents observed in Great Britain (GB) in the first half of 2006. This report, available on the Defra website, includes an assessment of the performance characteristics of the tuberculins manufactured by ID Lelystad BV in Holland, and by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), in the context of Britain's bovine TB testing programme. It concludes that, although the two tuberculins perform slightly differently in the field, and that this could be a small contributory factor to the reduction in the number of new TB incidents, the difference is not significant enough to account for the whole fall.

The performance of the tuberculins manufactured by ID Lelystad and by the VLA has continued to be closely monitored and analysed—our reviews do not call into question the efficacy of either tuberculin supply. Furthermore, all tuberculin used in GB (produced by ID Lelystad or VLA) is produced and assayed to the same standard, as part of European Union licensing procedures.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Cheshire

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many false positive results were obtained from tests for bovine tuberculosis undertaken in Eddisbury constituency in each of the last five years; [131311]

(2) how much compensation was paid to farmers in Eddisbury constituency for the slaughter of cattle with bovine tuberculosis in each year since 2001. [131314]

Mr. Bradshaw: Routine cattle herd testing for bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in Great Britain uses the single intradermal comparative cervical tuberculin (SICCT) test (commonly known as the "skin test").

Research shows that when the skin test is applied to cattle in bTB-free herds in Great Britain, there is a less than one in 1,000 chance that a non-infected animal will be wrongly classified as a reactor. This is known as the test's false positive rate. An alternative way of defining this is to say that the skin test has a specificity in excess of 99.9 per cent. Although the probability of getting at least one false positive result increases with the size of the herd being tested, it would be extremely rare to find more than one false positive in a herd.

When considering the false positive issue it is important to bear in mind that failure to confirm the disease by post-mortem examination at the slaughterhouse, or by culturing the causative bacterium in the laboratory, does not mean that the animal was not infected with bTB. In the early stages of this infectious disease, it is not always possible to see lesions with the naked eye and, due to the fastidious nature of the organism, it is not possible to culture it from tissue samples in every case. Because of this it is not possible to give a meaningful figure for the number of false positive test results.

Statistics on cattle slaughtered under bTB control measures are not collected on a constituency basis, but at county level. The following table shows the number of cattle slaughtered under TB control measures in Cheshire in the last five years;

	Number of TB reactors slaughtered	*Total number of cattle slaughtered*[1]
2006[2]	120	149
2005[2]	140	248
2004	285	425
2003	422	874
2002[3]	299	393

Details of compensation paid to farmers for the slaughter of cattle under bTB control measures are not available on either a constituency or a county basis. The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered under TB control measures in Great Britain in each year since 2001 and the amount of compensation paid as a result:

Financial year	*Total number of cattle slaughtered*[1]	*Compensation paid (£ million)*
2006[2]	22,242	28.2
2005[2]	30,081	42.8
2004	23,064	33.8
2003	23,821	38.2
2002[3]	23,744	23.1
2001[3]	6,549	7.1

[1] TB reactors, inconclusive reactors and direct contacts.
[2] Provisional data, subject to change as more data become available.
[3] In 2001, the TB testing and control programme was largely suspended due to the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak. When testing resumed in 2002, resources were concentrated on herds with overdue TB tests which would have had a longer period in which to contract the disease. Also the proportion of high risk herds tested immediately after the FMD outbreak was greater than that prior to the outbreak. As a result, data for 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with other years.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Compensation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to ensure that compensation for the slaughter of cattle with actual or presumed bovine tuberculosis is at market value. [131313]

Mr. Bradshaw: In England, cattle compensation for bovine tuberculosis is determined each month, primarily using table valuations based on contemporaneous sales prices. The 47 cattle categories used were finalised after two public consultations.

To support the system, sales data are continuously collected, by an independent service provider, from a large number and wide range of sources across Great Britain. These sources include "regular" markets, dispersal sales, and breed sales.

A statistical analysis of sales data collected during a 12 month period has helped Defra to identify the level of variability in sales prices for each category. This intelligence is used to determine when there are insufficient data to support a table valuation.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Dogs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evidence his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* assessed on the incidence of bovine tuberculosis amongst dogs; and whether he plans to make this a notifiable disease. [130539]

Mr. Bradshaw: TB in dogs is already notifiable. The Tuberculosis (England) Order 2006 introduced a duty to report suspected TB in the carcase of any farmed or pet mammal to the Divisional Veterinary Manager of Animal Health (previously the State Veterinary Service). The Order also made it compulsory to notify the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) if *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) is identified by laboratory examination of samples taken from any mammal (other than a human).

Although TB can affect dogs, the apparent incidence is very low. Until 2006, the VLA typically processed fewer than five samples from dogs each year. Since enactment of the new TB Order in March last year, the number of canine submissions to the VLA has increased and tissue samples from 20 dogs were processed in 2006. Only four cases of confirmed infection of canine TB caused by *M. bovis* have been recorded by the VLA between 1993 and 2004. There have been no confirmed cases since 2004.

The consensus of veterinary opinion is that dogs are a spill-over host for *M. bovis* and not an epidemiologically significant source of infection for cattle or other species. Therefore, no research has been conducted in this area.

British Waterways: Finance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely impact on British Waterways' ability to meet its deadline for 2012 for the full clearance of the maintenance arrears if British Waterways' grant-in-aid is to be set at £55.4 million with a five per cent. year on year reduction with adjustments for retail price index; and whether a new deadline has been set for the removal of these arrears. [130881]

Barry Gardiner: Funding levels over the Comprehensive Spending Review period have not yet been decided. British Waterways' target to clear its maintenance arrears by December 2012, which it published in 2002-03, was predicated on assumptions of both Government grant and planned returns on commercial income. British Waterways adjusts its plans in the light of updated figures for both grant and income.

While the safety backlog has been completed, no date has been set for completion of the maintenance backlog. British Waterways will continue to reduce it using a risk-based approach as it moves towards greater self sufficiency through finding ways to boost income.

Bull-fighting: EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to seek to end the support available under the Common Agricultural Policy to farms that breed and supply bulls for bull-fighting purposes. [130227]

Barry Gardiner: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 443W.

Chlorofluorocarbons

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the amount of UK chlorofluorocarbon emissions from each source; what steps his Department is taking to reduce each of these sources; and if he will make a statement. [128351]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Minister for Science and Innovation, Department of Trade and Industry, on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 629W, on phase out of remaining specialised uses of chlorofluorocarbons in the UK.

The most recent estimates of UK emissions of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the UK conclude that emissions have been decreasing since 1995. For example, emissions of CFC-11 dropped from 2.3 kilotonnes per year in 1995 to 0.6 kilotonnes per year. Similarly, emissions of CFC-12 and CFC-113 have dropped from 3.6 and 1.1 kilotonnes per year in 1995 to 0.5 and 0.2 kilotonnes per year in 2006, respectively.

This is consistent with global trends of emissions of CFCs following the ban in the developed world on production and consumption of CFCs under the Montreal Protocol since 1996, apart from exempt specialised uses agreed by the Parties.

Estimates of UK CFC emissions by source are not available. The most significant source of emissions is

likely to be from historic disposal to landfill sites of equipment containing CFCs.

The main source from remaining specialised uses is likely to be from asthma inhalers that use CFCs. In 2006, 59 tonnes of new CFCs were allocated to the UK for production of asthma inhalers.

DEFRA has established continuous observations of CFCs (and other trace gases) at the Mace Head Atmospheric Research Station on the Atlantic Ocean coastline of Ireland. The Met Office uses the observations to estimate the magnitude and spatial distribution of the European emissions. Detailed information on CFC emissions can be found in Manning et al (2003), *Journal of Geophysical Research* 108, 4405.

Climate Change: Finance

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) is spent by the Government on actions to combat climate change; whether he plans to increase spending to the 1 per cent. of GDP recommended by the Stern Review; and if he will make a statement. [125397]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 March 2007]*: The Stern Review suggests that taking action to mitigate climate change—by aiming for a stabilisation goal of around 550 parts per million of carbon dioxide equivalent or lower—will cost a total of 1 per cent. of GDP across the world by 2050. However, Stern does not recommend that this estimated 1 per cent. of GDP should come from Government expenditure; nor does he suggest that every country should directly spend 1 per cent. of their GDP on measures to combat climate change—some countries will have higher costs than others.

Stern's estimate reflects the likely costs under a timely, flexible, global policy, employing a variety of economic instruments to control emissions of a broad range of greenhouse gases. Stern advocates action on three fronts:

1. To create a global price for carbon;

2. To provide finance for technology research, development and deployment; and

3. To take action to change behaviour—including encouraging energy efficiency and reduced deforestation, where there are many cheap abatement opportunities, some that even save money.

Therefore Stern recommends action by Government to ensure that the private sector faces clear long-term price signals and incentives to ensure low-carbon economies, for example by establishing cap and trade schemes, as well as some level of Government expenditure to bring forward low-carbon technology and tackle market failures. Using only Government expenditure as the sole means of delivering reductions in emissions is likely to impose greater burdens on economies than the alternatives, and if the signals are not clear enough, or we delay action, the costs could be significantly higher.

Coastal Areas: Access

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in other departments on the contribution that providing access to the coast for leisure activities makes to *(a)* supporting coastal economies, *(b)* reducing obesity and *(c)* reducing carbon emissions by encouraging people to take holidays in the UK rather than overseas. [125558]

Barry Gardiner: I have regular discussions with Ministerial colleagues across a wide range of topics.

Coastal Areas: Flood Control

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to ensure that long-term regional strategies are in place to improve coastal flood management to take account of climate change risks; and how much he has allocated to such strategies in each of the next three years. [126476]

Ian Pearson: Since the 1990s DEFRA and its predecessors have encouraged coastal defence authorities to produce shoreline management plans (SMPs) that provide a framework for long term strategic planning at the coast, taking account of climate change and other factors. These SMPs are developed on a coastal cell basis which is appropriate for the regional planning scale.

The first round of plans for the whole coast of England was completed in 1999 and a major programme of review is currently being implemented for completion by 2010. This review will fully incorporate lessons learnt from the first round plans and three pilot second round plans that have been undertaken to test and develop DEFRA's revised guidance to the authorities. In addition, first round plans have pointed to the need for a number of more detailed strategy studies that have been progressed in many areas.

There is no separate funding allocation for SMPs and these plans and strategic studies are being funded from DEFRA's overall flood and coastal erosion risk management budget. However, priority has been given to such studies in the allocation of limited funds available for new projects in 2007-08 to provide a sound basis for future programmes of improvement works.

SMPs are key documents to ensure consideration of coastal management issues in regional spatial strategies and future river basin district management plans being produced under the Water Framework Directive.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much in financial penalties was incurred by farmers in the UK for breaches under the Common Agricultural Policy in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [127264]

Barry Gardiner: This answer relates only to England.

Estimated value of penalties under the 2004 IACS Subsidy Schemes

The current financial value of penalties applied under the 2004 Sheep Annual Premium Scheme is estimated at £387,356.

The current financial value of penalties applied under the 2004 Bovine Subsidy Schemes is estimated at £1,896,572. These schemes include Beef Special Premium Scheme, Slaughter Premium Scheme (English Adult & Veal), Suckler Cow Premium Scheme and the Extensification Payment Scheme.

The current financial value of penalties applied under the 2004 Arable Area Payments Scheme is estimated at £7,261,483.

Estimated value of penalties under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme

The current financial value of penalties applied under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme is estimated at £10,917,787.

Estimated value of penalties under the 2006 Single Payment Scheme

Figures are not yet available for 2006 payments.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs against how many holdings in the UK financial penalties were applied for breaches under the Common Agricultural Policy in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [127265]

Barry Gardiner: This answer relates only to England.

Number of producers/holdings penalised under the 2004 IACS subsidy schemes

286 producers/holdings have been penalised to date under the 2004 Sheep Annual Premium Scheme.

2,697 producers/holdings have been penalised to date under the 2004 Bovine Subsidy Schemes. These schemes include Beef Special Premium Scheme, Slaughter Premium Scheme (English Adult and Veal), Suckler Cow Premium Scheme and the Extensification Payment Scheme.

9,755 producers/holdings have been penalised to date under the 2004 Arable Area Payments Scheme.

Number of Producers/Single Business Identifiers (SBI) penalised under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme

16,474 Producers/SBIs have been penalised to date under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme.

Number of Producers/SBIs penalised under the 2006 Single Payment Scheme

Figures are not yet available for the 2006 Single Payments Scheme.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken to implement in the UK the programme for Enhancing Public Awareness of the Common Agricultural Policy (EU budget line 05 08 06); and if he will make a statement. [130663]

Barry Gardiner: Responsibility for the administration and allocation of funds under this budget line rests with the European Commission. Defra plays no part in determining these awards.

Common Fisheries Policy

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken to implement in the UK the Programme for Closer Dialogue with the Fishing Industry and Those Affected by the Common Fisheries Policy (EU budget code 11 04 01); and if he will make a statement. [130664]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Programme for Closer Dialogue with the Fishing Industry and those affected by the Common Fisheries Policy involves the establishment and on-going support of the Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) and the Advisory Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture (AGFA). These bodies provide advice gathered from interested parties to the Commission and member states. The UK is not entitled to receive these funds, which are administered by the Commission to RACs and AGFA directly. The UK Fisheries Administrations do, however, support the aims of this programme and contribute funding from departmental budgets to support the work of the RACs.

The UK has an interest in four out of the seven RACs: the North Sea, North Western Waters, Pelagic and Long Distance RACs. While the European Commission has provided support for the set-up and certain operational costs, Defra and the Scottish Executive have provided additional funds and practical support for RACs. These are aimed at enhancing their efficiency, improving the quality of their advice and enabling interested parties in the UK to participate effectively in the RACs. For example, by funding specific projects designed to help RACs provide soundly based advice to the Commission.

Consultants

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which consultancy services his Department has employed over the past 12 months; what projects each has worked on; and what the cost to his Department was of each service. [112788]

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which external consultants were used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies on projects excluding private finance initiatives and public-private partnerships in 2005-06; and what the (i) nature and (ii) cost of the work was in each case. [103631]

Barry Gardiner: The core-Department does not hold a central list of what every consultancy and professional services provider engaged by the core-Department worked on over the past 12 months, and such a list could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I have placed in the House of Commons Library a list held centrally of the consultancy and professional services providers which were paid fees by the core-Department in 2005-06.

Dairy Farming

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage fair and sustainable trading for dairy farmers in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [129784]

Barry Gardiner: The Dairy Supply Chain Forum provides an opportunity for all links in the supply chain to meet to discuss the challenges facing the industry (in England) and come up with collaborative solutions. It has a pivotal role in providing a framework for constructive debate, giving leadership for the dairy sector and providing information to all the industry to make informed decisions about their future. It has already provided useful information on the impacts of Common Agricultural Policy reform on the dairy sector, global supply and demand, the effects of trade liberalisation, and on barriers to innovation. DEFRA, in collaboration with Dairy UK has enhanced the resources for the Forum this year, enabling more work to be driven forward.

In addition, the Food Chain Centre is undertaking a number of projects in the dairy sector which DEFRA has supported through substantial grants under the Agricultural Development Scheme (ADS). This work includes a value chain analysis of eight dairy chains, which looks at reducing supply chain waste and improving efficiency. DEFRA is also helping to fund a project being undertaken by the Food Chain Centre and Milk Development Council to encourage benchmarking among dairy farmers to enable them to find ways of reducing their costs of production.

Departments: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department provided in grants for projects in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in 2005-06. [130926]

Barry Gardiner: The major funding for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for local and regional initiatives is through the Revenue Support Grant made to local authorities. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) is responsible for this funding. This covers a number of areas including local environmental quality and waste services.

DEFRA also provides funding to a range of non-departmental public bodies including Environment Agency, Natural England and Regional Development Agencies.

In terms of direct grants, DEFRA provided approximately £250,000 for projects for East Sussex county council between 2005-06.

DEFRA provided approximately £90,000 for projects for Eastbourne borough council between 2005-06.

These projects relate to animal health, waste, contaminated land and beach management.

Departments: EC Action

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many expert European negotiators he has in his Department; what tasks they are engaged in; and if he will make a statement. [128588]

Barry Gardiner: A substantial proportion of Defra's work on environment, agriculture, fisheries and animal health and welfare policy is connected with EU decision-making processes. Therefore, at any given time, a considerable number of our policy experts will be engaged in different kinds of EU negotiations, ranging from ad hoc informal groups through to high-level formal negotiations.

Departments: Email

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the policy is of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* non-departmental public bodies reporting to his Department and *(c)* executive agencies reporting to his Department on the time after which emails sent to and from the Department and those bodies are deleted; whether such emails are still recoverable after that date from the system; and if he will make a statement. [130985]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA's policy is that significant emails (i.e. those containing information about DEFRA decisions or actions which should form part of the official record) are printed for file or saved and stored corporately in accordance with departmental record management procedures that also apply to paper information. DEFRA's guidance on email management emphasises the importance of capturing all significant email messages but staff are encouraged to delete other emails, such as those relating to meeting arrangements and routine messages, as soon as possible. Deleted emails are recoverable for nine weeks after deletion.

DEFRA's main Agencies/NDPBs follow broadly similar policies though the Environment Agency has implemented a system to delete any email which has not been saved after 180 days and the period during which backups are retained varies between organisations.

Departments: Employment Tribunals Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints to an employment tribunal were lodged against *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated (i) agencies and (ii) non-departmental public bodies in each of the last five years; and how much it cost his Department to defend and settle those complaints on aggregate in each year. [126523]

Barry Gardiner: The number of complaints to an employment tribunal that were lodged against *(a)* the core Department and *(b)* its agencies and the cost of settling these complaints in the last five years is shown in the following table. The Department has no information on the number of complaints submitted to non-departmental public bodies or on the cost of defending complaints.

Number of complaints

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Core Defra	7	2	13	3	19
Agencies	3	0	2	4	22

Settlement costs

					£
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Core Defra	5,503	1,250	336,000	16,000	4,000
Agencies	22,000	0	500	2,500	2,500

Includes settlement of one claim submitted on behalf of 44 temporary veterinary inspectors which was settled for £300,000.

Departments: Non-departmental Public Bodies

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which non-departmental public bodies under his Department have changed their *(a)* name and *(b)* branding since 1997, what changes were made in each case, at what cost to the Exchequer in each case; and if he will make a statement. [129019]

Barry Gardiner: I am only able to report on changes which have been made since the formation of my Department in 2001. The non-departmental public bodies which have incurred expenditure through name change and re-branding over this period were Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Natural England was established in October 2006 when it took over the functions, staff and assets of English Nature, the landscape access and recreation division of the Countryside Agency, and part of the Rural Delivery Service. Natural England does not have information available about changes of name or branding within their legacy bodies prior to that time. The re-branding by Natural England has cost the Exchequer £385,000 for brand materials, website changes, new signs, stationery, publications and launch events.

In 2004, the Environment Agency reviewed its approach to communications and its brand. The work involving research, development, testing and launch was carried out by a mix of in-house teams, brand consultants and a design firm. Costs up to the launch of the re-brand were £120,000. However, it was agreed that communications materials were only replaced when existing stocks became exhausted or when a contract was due for renewal. No additional money—other than for a short guide to the brand for Environment Agency staff—has been spent "launching the brand".

During 2003 the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew introduced changes to its branding and public face at a one-off cost of £80,000; this exercise did not involve a change of name.

None of the other non-departmental public bodies for which my Department has responsibility have undergone re-naming or re-branding.

Departments: Older Workers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of his letter sent to employees at age 65 informing them of the opportunity to continue working if they wish. [128357]

Barry Gardiner: The hon. Member will wish to be aware that a letter is sent to employees before their 60th birthday rather than at age 65. The letter sets out the options for employees working beyond 60. The Secretary of State has placed this letter in the Defra library.

Departments: Personation

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to raise awareness of the dangers of identity fraud among employees at his Department. [130431]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 28 March 2007]:* As part of a recent review of fraud policy the department acknowledged identity fraud as a potential risk. The review led to a number of steps during 2006 to raise general awareness of fraud, including publishing revised guidance on fraud on the DEFRA internal anti fraud website and publishing a number of articles in the in-house magazine.

Specific parts of the department will also take action as appropriate. For instance, the Rural Payments Agency has an anti fraud unit—The Counter Fraud and Compliance Unit—which actively counters identity fraud for claimants and is responsible for considering all referrals relating to suspected fraud involving external customers and agents.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the reasons are for the proposed changes in the budget for the *(a)* Veterinary Laboratories Agency, *(b)* State Veterinary Service, *(c)* Meat and Livestock Commission and *(d)* Pesticides Safety Directorate; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of those changes on the (i) safety, (ii) research and (iii) investigative work of each. [128771]

Barry Gardiner: The Veterinary Laboratories Agency's (VLA) budget for 2007-08 has remained static. The only area this is likely to impact on is research and it is more likely that it will result in delays in commencing work rather than work actually being cut.

The State Veterinary Service (SVS) 2007-08 budget has been reviewed to reflect Defra's wider business needs and also to reflect changes in the SVS's business needs. The budget changes have been reviewed for their impact on the SVS's capacity and capability to deliver, ensuring that disease risks are not increased. In particular, the changes to the SVS budget will not affect safety or the efficacy of investigative work. The SVS does not undertake research.

The Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) expenditure is not a matter for my Department. We pay the MLC to carry out certain functions and cuts are planned in some of these work areas. These are not related to the MLC's safety, research or investigative work.

With regards to the Pesticides Safety Directorate, the savings were focused on lower priority activities and

were achieved by improving efficiency and also reducing support service costs. The primary aim throughout has been to protect key services and ensure they continue to be delivered to appropriate standards. The savings put in place will, therefore, have no impact on pesticides safety which is the Directorate's top priority. Some research projects, particularly on the behaviour of pesticides in the environment, will have to be postponed. There should be no significant impact on investigative and surveillance work, particularly since efficiency gains from new technology have allowed the number of samples tested within the key pesticide residues surveillance programme to be maintained at lower costs.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in (i) his Department and (ii) each agency of the Department in each year since 1997-98; how much is planned to be spent for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [123926]

Barry Gardiner: Expenditure on involuntary and voluntary staff exits in Defra and its agencies since the creation of Defra in 2001 is set out in the following tables. The figures are based on the full estimated cost, including estimated monthly compensation payments up to normal retirement age, of each exit taking place in the stated financial year.

In order to achieve the Department's SR04 efficiency targets there will be further voluntary exits in 2007-08 but the costs have not yet been determined.

The following tables show expenditure on voluntary and involuntary staff exits.

(a) Expenditure 2001-02 to 2005-06 (all exits voluntary)

£

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Defra	1,713,958	338,668	5,774,603	9,291,030	7,673,203
Defra agencies					
MFA	0	0	0	0	44,367
CEFAS	183,000	160,000	678,000	600,000	46,000
GDS	0	0	0	0	0
VLA	151,000	22,000	598,000	72,000	237,000
CSL	799,054	336,294	885,787	791,784	303,263
RPA	1,172,000	2,082,000	2,481,000	31,892,000	1,729,000
VMD	0	0	0	0	0
PSD	0	0	0	0	0
SVS	0	0	0	0	193,438
SDC	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	4,019,012	2,938,962	10,417,390	42,646,814	10,226,271

(b) Estimated expenditure 2006-07 and 2007-08

	2006-07		2007-08[1]
	Voluntary exits[2]	Involuntary exits[2]	
Defra	14,383,000	400,000	
Defra agencies			
MFA	212,000	—	—
CEFAS	26,000	—	11,000
CDS	0	—	0
VLA	0	—	0
CSL	0	—	87,500
RPA	0	—	300,000
VMD	0	—	0
PSD	80,445	—	0
SVS	0	—	0
SDC	0	—	0
Total	14,676,445	400,000	398,500

[1] Estimate.
[2] To be confirmed.

Departments: Travel

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria he adopts to decide what means of transport he uses to travel between his Department's offices and the Palace of Westminster. [130731]

Barry Gardiner: There are no formal criteria used. As a general rule the Secretary of State walks to the Palace of Westminster.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many work permits were applied for by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [126800]

Barry Gardiner: This information is not held centrally. It can be obtained for the last three years but only at disproportionate cost. We are currently undertaking a HR management information review through which we will seek to ensure that all such information relating to new Civil Servants is collected and easily available in the future.

Diabrotica Virgifera

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* public and *(b)* private research establishments have received permission to carry out contained experiments involving Diabrotica virgifera in the UK since 1995; on what date permission was granted in each case; what conditions were attached to the consents in each case; and under what legislation the permission was granted in each case. [129943]

Barry Gardiner: The following establishments currently hold licences under Part 8 of the Plant Health (England) Order 2005 to carry out scientific experiments on Diabrotica virgifera (preferred name Diabrotica virgifera virgifera), subject to a range of measures to prevent release or escape of the pest.

(a) Public research establishments:

DEFRA's Central Science Laboratory, York

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

(b) Private research establishments:

Syngenta, Jealotts Hill

University of Cambridge

University of Durham
University of Newcastle
Warwick HRI, Wellesbourne

Conditions in the licences include:

(i) use of quarantine containment facilities which have been approved by the DEFRA Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate

(ii) inactivation of waste material during the research

(iii) destruction of all licensed material at the end of the research

(iv) record keeping

(v) provision of access to DEFRA inspectors to conduct audit visits.

It has not yet been possible to retrieve information back to 1995 on licences issued under Article 30 and 30A of the Plant Health (Great Britain) Order 1993. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as this information is available.

Domestic Waste

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 30 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 285W, on domestic waste, which councils provide alternate weekly collections according to the most recent figures held by the Waste and Resources Action Programme. [130584]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) most recent list of local authorities (LAs) providing an alternate weekly waste collection (AWC) service is shown as follows.

Alnwick district council
Amber Valley
Ashfield district council
Ashford borough council
Aylesbury Vale district council
Babergh district council
Bassetlaw district council
Barnsley MBC
Berwick-upon-Tweed borough council
Blackburn with Darwen borough council
Blyth Valley borough council
Boston borough council
Braintree district council
Breckland district council
Bridgnorth district council
Broadland district council
Bromsgrove district council
Broxtowe borough council
Burnley borough council
Cambridge city council
Cannock Chase district council
Canterbury city council
Caradon district council
Carlisle city council
Carrock district council
Castle Morpeth borough council
Charnwood borough council
Cherwell district council
Chesterfield borough council
Chichester district council
Chorley borough council
Copeland borough council
Corby borough council
Crewe and Nantwich borough council
Dacorum borough council
Daventry district council
Derby city council
Derbyshire Dales district council
Derwentside district council
Dudley MBC
East Cambridgeshire district council
East Hampshire district council
East Lindsey district council
Eastleigh borough council
Ellesmere Port and Neston borough council
Erewash borough council
Exeter city council
Fenland district council
Forest Heath district council
Fylde borough council
Gedling borough council
Gosport borough council
Great Yarmouth borough council
Hambleton district council
Harborough district council
Hartlepool borough council
Harrow London borough
Havant borough council
Hinckley and Bosworth borough council
High Peak borough council
Huntingdonshire district council
Hyndburn borough council
Ipswich borough council
Kennet district council
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk borough council
Lancaster city council
Lichfield district council
Lincoln city council
Macclesfield borough council
Mansfield district council
Melton borough council
Mendip district council
Mid Bedfordshire district council
Mid Devon district council
Mid Suffolk district council
Mid Sussex district council
Mole valley district council
Newark and Sherwood district council
North Devon district council
North Kesteven district council
North Lincolnshire council
North Norfolk district council
North Shropshire district council
North West Leicestershire district council
Northampton borough council
Nottingham city council

Oswestry borough council
Oxford city council
Pendle borough council
Peterborough city council
Preston borough council
Purbeck district council
Redcar and Cleveland borough council
Redditch borough council
Richmondshire district council
Rochford district council
Rossendale borough council
Rushcliffe borough council
Ryedale district council
Shepway district council
South Buckinghamshire district council
South Cambridgeshire district council
South Derbyshire district council
South Gloucestershire council
South Hams district council
South Kesteven district council
South Lakeland district council
South Norfolk district council
South Northamptonshire council
South Ribble borough council
South Shropshire district council
South Somerset district council
South Staffordshire district council
Stafford borough council
St. Edmundsbury borough council
Staffordshire Moorlands district council
Swale borough council
Tamworth borough council
Taunton Deane borough council
Teignbridge district council
Telford and Wrekin borough council
Test Valley borough council
Tonbridge and Malling borough council
Torbay council
Tunbridge Wells borough council
Tynedale district council
Uttlesford district council
Vale Royal borough council
Wansbeck district council
Waveney district council
Waverley borough council
Wealden district council
Wellingborough borough council
West Lancashire district council
West Lindsey district council
West Somerset district council
West Wiltshire district council
Winchester city council
Wirral MBC
Woking borough council
Worcester city
Wycombe district council
Wyre Forest district council
York city council

This list represents our best understanding of LAs operating or implementing AWC schemes. However, due to the often rapid changes in this area, it is unlikely to be completely up to date.

Many schemes are currently being rolled out, so not all households in a LA area will receive the service. In addition, AWC is being trialled in some areas and no decision has been taken as to whether such schemes will be rolled out more widely.

WRAP estimate that there are around 140 LAs operating an AWC service, which represents about 40 per cent. of collection authorities. Around one third of all households receive an AWC service and this number is set to increase as schemes are rolled out borough-wide.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what guidance his Department and its agencies have issued to local authorities advocating a move to alternate weekly collection schemes for the collection of household rubbish; [130544]

(2) what estimate *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made of the cost to local authorities of providing (i) weekly and (ii) alternate weekly collections of household rubbish; [130551]

(3) what funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have provided to local authorities for alternate weekly collection schemes for the collection of household rubbish. [130552]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for each local authority (LA) to decide whether to implement alternate weekly collection, or any other waste management system. However, my Department has funded research and guidance to assist LAs in carrying out their operations in the most efficient and effective manner. This will ensure that such changes in collections do not impact negatively on residents.

Guidance published by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) in 2005 sets out the process councils need to go through if they are considering the introduction of an alternate week collection service. The guidance is based on the experiences of LAs that have already implemented such schemes. WRAP is currently revising its guidance to take account of the latest research, including recent householder and LA experiences. Suitability of an alternate weekly collection service often depends on local geography and housing stock. The guidance also emphasises that a key part of any successful change is following full consultation with local residents.

My Department has made some assumptions about the costs of alternate weekly collections in our modelling for the review of England's Waste Strategy. Those assumptions were based on collection cost estimates from WRAP's Kerbside Analysis Tool model and five consultants as part of a preliminary benchmarking project run by Be-Environmental and let by WRAP. A more complete study will follow later this year.

WRAP has not carried out a general assessment of cost savings associated with alternate weekly collection.

The work that has been done has looked at particular LAs and how alternate weekly collection has been implemented in these cases. The general work that WRAP has been undertaking for Defra looks at different types of alternate weekly collection design and how this impacts on recycling performance and total quantities of household waste collected.

Alternate weekly collection covers a number of important design decisions in relation to residual household waste, recycling and composting collections and only one component of this is whether or not to collect household residual waste on alternate weeks. There are many systems where only elements of recycling and composting alternate with one another and the refuse is still collected on a weekly basis.

WRAP has carried out regular public attitude surveys since 2004 that have included ratings of how convenient the public find different LA collection systems to use. Only a minority of alternate weekly collection systems received poor convenience ratings and these related to systems where insufficient capacity has been provided to householders in the week that alternated with refuse collection.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he expects Joint Waste Authorities to be able to impose alternate weekly collection of domestic rubbish on individual councils within an authority. [130568]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under the proposals to allow creation of Joint Waste Authorities (JWA), it will be for groups of authorities to determine which powers they wish to pass to a JWA. If a group of authorities opted to pass waste collection responsibilities to a JWA, then the constituent authorities would no longer have a role in waste collection. The JWA would be responsible for making decisions such as whether to introduce alternate weekly collection. The JWA would be governed by elected members from the constituent local authorities. If a group of authorities chose to pass only waste disposal functions to the JWA, and to retain waste collection responsibilities themselves, the JWA would not be able to make any decisions about alternate weekly collection.

Endangered Species

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Ministers have represented the UK at each meeting of the *(a)* International Whaling Commission and *(b)* Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in the last five years; and who the UK's ministerial representatives at the next meetings of these bodies will be. [128787]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* At the 2002 annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) the UK was represented at ministerial level by my right hon. Friend the Member for Scunthorpe (Mr. Morley). In 2003 no Government Minister attended. In 2004, 2005 and 2006 I attended.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Scunthorpe (Mr. Morley) also attended the 2002 and 2004 Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The Minister with responsibility for biodiversity, my hon. Friend the Member for Brent, North (Barry Gardiner) will be attending both this year's meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC59) and the 14th Conference of Parties to CITES (COP14).

The UK is one of only three members to have regular ministerial level representation at IWC meetings, the others being Australia and New Zealand. Similarly, the UK is among a minority of parties that have regularly had ministerial representation at CITES COPs.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pensioner households in Tamworth constituency are eligible for *(a)* warm front grants to install energy efficient measures and *(b)* (i) free and (ii) reduced cost installation of central heating systems. [129992]

Ian Pearson: Information on the exact number of residents in Tamworth eligible for warm front is not available. However, on the basis of statistical modelling used by the warm front scheme manager, it is estimated that some 8,000 households in Tamworth could currently be eligible for assistance from the Scheme.

Since the start of the second phase of the warm front in June 2005, 491 households in Tamworth have received assistance from the scheme.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will make a statement on the withdrawal of Energy Efficiency Commitment funding to Eaga discussions; [128946]

(2) what discussions he has had with Eaga on the shortfall in funding for Warm Front grants since the withdrawal of Energy Efficiency Commitment funding. [129811]

Ian Pearson: Energy Efficiency Commitment funding has not been withdrawn from the Warm Front scheme.

Eaga Plc continues to work closely with energy suppliers in meeting energy efficiency saving targets set by the Energy Efficiency Commitment.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of houses built since the introduction of energy efficiency regulations in 1985 met the required standards; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure compliance with these regulations. [129669]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

Enforcement of compliance with the Building Regulations is undertaken by local authorities and the data are not held centrally.

The Government have been aware of the concerns about non-compliance with the energy efficiency requirements for some time. They gave commitments in the 2003 Energy White Paper to raise performance standards and to work with local authorities on improving enforcement.

The 2006 amendment to the Building Regulations followed consultations with stakeholders and adopted a number of measures to improve compliance with the energy efficiency requirements. We have since undertaken the most comprehensive information, education and dissemination programme ever in regard to these changes to ensure all stakeholders are aware of the importance of these measures, of their obligations to comply and of ways of doing so. Monitoring of implementation is proceeding with six monthly consultations with the enforcement authorities and regular contacts with the building industry.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what alternative he recommends for use with *(a)* domestic and *(b)* commercial dimmer switches when incandescent light bulbs are phased out. [130732]

Ian Pearson: We are working with retailers, lighting manufacturers and trade associations to phase out inefficient light bulbs over the next four years. We will phase out only those bulbs for which an efficient alternative currently exists.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs, an alternative to inefficient light bulbs, are now available for almost all household fittings. Dimmable compact fluorescent light bulbs, which work with both domestic and commercial dimmer switches, are already available and will be made increasingly available in the UK during the phase-out period.

Environment Agency: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for changes in the Environment Agency budget. [131223]

Ian Pearson: The operating grant-in-aid that Defra provides to the Environment Agency (EA) for 2007-08 was announced in December 2006 and totals £570.884 million.

Overall departmental funding for the financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11, of which grant-in-aid to the EA forms a part, is being considered in the Government's 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). The outcome of the CSR will be announced in the autumn. We will continue to work with the EA in preparation for this.

Farm Inspections

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people are qualified to *(a)* lead farm inspections and *(b)* be part of farm inspection teams which are employed by (i) his Department and (ii) the Environment Agency. [130035]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency Inspectorate has around 200 inspectors who are fully competent to conduct farm inspections solo or as part of a team.

In England, Environment Agency officers generally undertake cross-compliance inspections alone (that is, not part of a 'team'). The number of officers trained and competent to undertake cross-compliance inspections in England is in the order of 150.

In Wales, inspections are normally lead by the Rural Inspectorate Wales and the Environment Agency Wales has about 25 officers trained and competent to undertake inspections.

Fish: River Don

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps were taken to ensure that the River Don was stocked with fish appropriate to the local area in the restocking that took place in January and March 2007; [130310]

(2) what steps are being taken to ensure the recovery of the River Don fishery. [130311]

Mr. Bradshaw: According to earliest available records (pre-1850), species such as grayling, roach, dace, chub, gudgeon, barbel, common bream, eel and perch are native to the River Don. We have utilised these records, together with the topography of the river, throughout our stocking programmes to stock species appropriate to the location. Fishery surveys were also undertaken after the recent pollution incident, and the data compared to that from previous surveys to help evaluate suitable species for stocking. Stocking needs for 2007-08 will be based upon future monitoring to ensure it meets the demands of the river following this incident.

Stocking is a useful fisheries management tool for developing and recovering rivers, but only one part of the recovery process. The river will slowly recover naturally as fish from upstream and downstream re-distribute, but we are considering what the river needs to improve fish stocks now and protect against possible future storm sewage incidents. Fish passes, for example, may be installed, according to need, in order to allow stocks unaffected by the pollution to migrate upstream. A recovery plan for the river is being finalised.

The Environment Agency has committed to work with angling clubs, British Waterways and Yorkshire Water to ensure the recovery and future protection of the river. Meetings have already taken place and discussions are ongoing.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures he is taking to ensure sustainable fisheries management; and if he will make a statement. [130943]

Mr. Bradshaw: The UK Government continues to play an active role in negotiating improvements to the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) designed to provide more sustainable long-term fisheries management. We are working to ensure depleted stocks are recovered and subsequently conserved, while at the same time delivering a viable future for our fishing industry, in order to optimise long-term benefits to the nation from fisheries. We are currently consulting the public on our 20-year Strategic vision for marine fisheries in England and English waters. We aim to arrive at a "contract" for

marine fisheries recognising that everyone with an interest in fisheries has a role to play in achieving sustainability.

The November 2006 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) discussion on a Sustainable Fisheries Resolution took a significant step forward, putting in place an agreed international framework for phasing out high seas bottom trawling over the next two years. This was possible because of the strong position taken by the UK and our EU partners. We continue to press for effective worldwide action and, with the EU, we will seek to ensure that everybody meets their responsibility to prevent this unregulated form of fishing from destroying so many marine creatures and habitats.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely economic impact on fishermen of the quota swap of UK prawns for German sole, and if he will make a statement. [131321]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2006, the UK under-fished its North Sea nephrops quota by some 3,429 tonnes, 2,443 tonnes of which has been carried over to 2007. This takes this year's UK quota for this stock to 25,087 tonnes, which is 4,084 tonnes above the level of its actual landings in 2006.

In view of this, we concluded that "top-slicing" 375 tonnes from the UK's North Sea nephrops quota to pay for the quota swap with Germany would not have a significant impact on those groups targeting nephrops. Any disadvantage would be greatly outweighed by the benefit to the inshore fleet of securing 150 tonnes of North Sea sole. Without this quantity of sole, there was a real possibility of a significant number of small fishing enterprises going out of business, with a knock-on effect for shore-based companies and the viability of small fishing ports in South East England.

Fisheries Administrations will be consulting the catching industry on the apportionment of the 375 tonne reduction in North Sea nephrops quota.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that there is sufficient quota for the under 10 metre fishing fleet for 2008. [130945]

Mr. Bradshaw: Fisheries Administrations are considering the future management arrangements for the under 10 metre fleet as part of the Quota Management Change Programme. Work on this has already begun in the light of the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report "Net Benefits". In this context, we are examining a range of issues, including:

(i) the balance of quota between the under and over 10 metre sectors

(ii) the potential for expansion in fishing effort within the under 10 metre fleet

(iii) and whether the current management systems for these vessels are still appropriate.

We expect to go out to consultation on proposals in the second half of 2007, with a view to introducing any changes (possibly on a phased basis) from next year. In the meantime, Fisheries Administrations will continue to enhance the fishing opportunities for the under 10 metre fleet wherever possible. This will be done through existing mechanisms such as the facility for quota "swaps" with other groups within the UK and with other member states.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has plans to swap fish quota with other countries; and if he will make a statement. [130981]

Mr. Bradshaw: Fisheries administrations swap fish quotas with other EU member states on a regular basis. Quota swaps are undertaken in order to maximise fishing opportunities for the UK fleet. In 2006, some 96 quota swaps were undertaken between the UK and other member states.

Flood Control

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to introduce a floodplain development charge following the findings of the Flood and Coastal Defence Funding Review. [130477]

Ian Pearson: As part of the 2002 Flood and Coastal Defence Funding Review, DEFRA consulted publicly on the idea of a floodplain development charge. This is an initial charge on developers in flood risk areas to cover the costs to the public purse of wider measures to protect proposed developments from flooding, beyond those covered by developer payments under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Further public consultation on the idea was undertaken in 2004 as part of development of the new cross-Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management "Making space for water".

Responses to the consultations indicated some limited support for a floodplain development charge. However, there would be some adverse effects and a number of difficult practical issues to resolve before such a charge could be introduced. There are no current plans to introduce a floodplain development charge. The Government remain committed to an effective and properly resourced flood and coastal erosion risk management service and will continue to explore options for meeting long-term funding needs.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Netherlands

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the implications for the UK field trials of BASF genetically-modified blight-resistant potatoes of the Dutch Court ruling requiring field trials in the Netherlands of the same GM variety to be destroyed due to insufficient environmental risk assessment; and if he will make a statement. [130308]

Ian Pearson: Decisions on research trials of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are made at a national level. We have our own procedures to consider applications for GM crop trials in England. This includes making sure that there is an appropriate risk assessment in accordance with Directive 2001/18/EC.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Potatoes

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what studies his Department has (*a*) carried out and (*b*) supported on the possible effects on human health of pollen produced by the starched-altered GM potato EHG92-527-1. [128108]

Ian Pearson: My Department has not commissioned or supported any studies on the possible effects on human health of pollen produced by GM potato EH92-527-1. As with all dossiers for the commercial release of a genetically modified organism under Directive 2001/18/EC applicants are required to provide information on risks to human health and the environment as part of their submitted dossier. This information is assessed by panels of independent expert scientists in all member states. In the UK this is the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment. If we or ACRE were not satisfied with the information provided further evidence would be requested.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Research

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department has supported further research on the same topics covered by the earlier research which was supported by his Department on genetically modified potatoes conducted by Dr. Arpad Pusztai; [130778]

(2) if he will commission research to review the findings of Dr. Arpad Pusztai on genetically modified potatoes, to include consideration of the findings of the 1998 feeding study of the Institute of Nutrition of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences. [130779]

Ian Pearson: The research study on genetically modified (GM) potatoes conducted by Dr. Pusztai was published in 1999 and was funded by the then Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Department. DEFRA has not supported any research in this area, the reported findings of both the study by Dr. Pusztai and the 1998 feeding study in Russia relate to the issue of GM food safety, which, in the UK, is the responsibility of the Food Standards Agency.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints he has received about the operation of the Warm Front scheme; and how many have concerned the company Blue Flag, operating in the North West. [129001]

Ian Pearson: Since June 2005, there have been 4,418 complaints logged by Eaga plc regarding the Warm Front scheme overall, with 1,760 being upheld. This represents 0.51 per cent. of all households assisted over the period.

During that period, 2,963 complaints were received regarding installer companies, with 1,390 of these complaints having been upheld. This reflects 0.41 per cent. of all households assisted.

Over the same time scales, 33 complaints were received relating to Blue Flag activities in the North West—of which 15 were upheld and seven currently being investigated. This represents less than 1 per cent. of their activity under Warm Front.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many households (*a*) connected and (*b*) not connected to the gas mains were helped to improve their energy efficiency by (i) Warmfront, (ii) the Energy Efficiency Commitment and (iii) other publicly funded schemes in each of the last 10 years. [130377]

Ian Pearson: The data are not available to establish precisely how many households have been helped by Warm Front and the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) that are not connected to the mains gas supply. However, since June 2005, 93,687 households that do not have gas as their main source of heating have been assisted with a range of energy efficiency and heating measures.

In addition, 2,600 households received a gas supply funded by Warm Front that enabled them to benefit from the installation of either gas wall heaters or a gas fired central heating system.

Since Warm Front's inception, in 2000, over 1.2 million households have received assistance from the scheme.

During the first phase of the Energy Efficiency Commitment (2002-05), suppliers installed a range of insulation, heating and lighting measures and appliances which helped an estimated 40 million households to improve their energy efficiency.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Complaints

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many consumer complaints were made about the quality of service provided by independently contracted firms in the Warm Front scheme in each of the last three years. [125559]

Ian Pearson: The number of consumer complaints about the quality of service provided by firms contracted to the Warm Front Scheme in the areas managed by the Eaga Partnership, between January 2004 and December 2006, are set out in the following table:

	Households assisted	*Number of complaints*	*Number of complaints (percentage of households assisted)*
2004	133,058	362	0.27
2005	142,703	447	0.31
2006	221,630	791	0.35

Inland Waterways: Finance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of effective maintenance of the UK's canals on (*a*) regeneration and (*b*) tourism. [130362]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 27 March 2007]*: The contribution of the waterways to urban and rural regeneration is acknowledged. They act as a catalyst for economic and social regeneration, having the potential to generate jobs and development. There is reckoned to be around a 20 per cent. uplift in land values along a canal corridor. Their contribution to tourism is also significant given the opportunities they provide for leisure and recreation.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of the reduction in British Waterways' grant on the planned maintenance of canals. [130364]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 27 March 2007]*: This is an operational matter for British Waterways. I understand it announced deferral of major engineering works to the value of £5.6 million following the in-year cut of £3.9 million for 2006-07.

Litter

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received about roadside litter in England; what steps the Highways Agency takes against roadside litter along trunk roads; what assessment he has made of the change in volume of roadside litter in England; and if he will make a statement. [131585]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have received various representations on litter from members of the public and members of both Houses.

The Highways Agency has a duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to clear litter and refuse from the strategic road network, which includes all motorways and some A-roads and trunk roads. The cleansing duty on other roads is the responsibility of the relevant local authority. To ensure satisfactory standards, cleansing is undertaken in accordance with the Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse.

Data from the Local Environmental Quality Survey of England 2005-06 show that there has been a steady improvement in cleansing performance over the last three years. However, the survey indicated a rise in levels of detritus on rural roads and other highways.

Maps: EC Action

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe directive to harmonise and regulate cadastral data. [130585]

Barry Gardiner: Cadastral data are covered by the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE) Directive and will be subject to the interoperability requirements that INSPIRE will lay down.

INSPIRE will create a European Spatial Data Infrastructure by improving the interoperability of spatial information (a term often used interchangeably with geographic information) across the European Union at a local, regional, national and international level.

A series of technical implementing rules will accompany the Directive. These are currently being developed by several drafting teams under the auspices of the European Commission. They include implementing rules on the interoperability and, where practicable, harmonisation of spatial data sets.

The implementing rules will be subject to expert and public review. DEFRA and other government organisations are participating in this process. In addition, as part of the process for developing the interoperability implementing rules, the Commission (with input from member states) will undertake analyses to ensure that the rules are feasible and proportionate in terms of their likely costs and benefits.

Marine Fisheries Agency

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the total cost of the re-naming of the Marine Fisheries Agency; and if he will make a statement; [129003]

(2) whether consultants were hired to advise *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies on the re-naming of the Marine Fisheries Agency; and if he will make a statement. [129020]

Mr. Bradshaw: The company Daniel West and Associates (DWA) were commissioned to update the existing Marine Fisheries Agency logo and associated guidelines. The cost is in the region of £5,000 which is to be spent on signs for the offices and document templates. All costs are being met from within the existing Marine Fisheries Agency budget.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the sources of funding are for the costs of renaming the Marine Fisheries Agency. [130682]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1167W.

Organic Farming: Milk

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support he is making available to farmers who wish to convert to organic milk production. [129282]

Barry Gardiner: It is up to individual producers to decide if they want to produce milk organically.

Aid for converting to organic farming is available under Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS). Under this scheme, organic farmers are now paid £60 per hectare (ha) per annum (twice that of the comparable rate of aid for conventional farmers). This is recognition of the inherent environmental benefits delivered by farming organically.

Since the launch of OELS in March 2005, some 212,452 ha of land has been entered into the Scheme[1],

which is 62.5 per cent. of the target of 340,000 by the end of 2007. However, while OELS is stimulating conversion, we have yet to see how far this will contribute to the sector attaining the 70 per cent. target for indigenous produce set by the Action Plan to development organic food and farming.

[1] As of 20 March 2007.

Packaging

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to introduce mandatory targets for the reduction of excess packaging by retailers and food producers. [131731]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003 (as amended) require that all packaging should be manufactured so that volume and weight are limited to the minimum adequate amount to maintain necessary levels of safety, hygiene and consumer acceptance.

These Regulations are enforced by Trading Standards officers and a number of companies have already been prosecuted for using excess packaging.

The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 also encourage businesses to reduce the amount of packaging they use. In addition, the Government are encouraging supermarkets to take greater responsibility, in terms of waste, for the packaging and products they place on the market. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is currently working with retailers through the 'Courtauld Commitment', a voluntary agreement which aims to halt packaging growth by 2008 and make absolute reductions in packaging waste by 2010. 13 major retailers, representing 92 per cent. of the UK grocery sector, have already signed the agreement as well as three major brands.

In addition, DEFRA, working with WRAP and the devolved administrations, has recently secured the agreement of UK retailers to reduce the overall environmental impact of their carrier bags by 25 per cent. by the end of 2008.

Consumers also have a part to play in encouraging producers to reduce unnecessary waste by choosing goods that are not heavily packaged, buying loose (rather than pre-packaged) food and re-using their own bags.

Palm Oil

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of biofuels used in the UK is made from palm oil; and what assessment he has made of the carbon dioxide emissions from palm oil production. [129668]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 Jan 2007:Column 2112W.

Paper: Recycling

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department has issued to local authorities on whether shredded paper is suitable for collection as part of domestic doorstep recycling collections. [130566]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department has not issued guidance to local authorities on collecting shredded paper as part of their domestic doorstep recycling service.

Although shredded paper can be recycled, some paper mills may not be able to accept it as it can be difficult to re-process. A lack of facilities accepting such material may affect a local authority's decision on whether to include shredded paper in its domestic doorstep recycling collection service.

Pesticides

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in what form and in which publications and other media he plans to make available the spray records of individual farmers in the Midlands region following the recent announcement by the Pesticides Safety Directorate. [130713]

Ian Pearson: The pilot study being carried out by the Pesticides Safety Directorate will enable individual members of the public to get the names of those pesticides a farmer has used on his land where it has not been possible for them to get this information directly from the farmer. We expect that in the majority of cases farmers will pass this information to the enquirer upon request. We anticipate that members of the public will receive this information direct, rather than having to access it in a published form.

Polyethylene Terephthalate: Recycling

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken to encourage the use of recycled polyethylene terephthalate (PET) in manufacturing food and drink packaging; and what assessment has been made of the availability of recycled PET in the UK. [130645]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is working to maximise the amount and quality of recyclate used in UK manufacturing operations, including uses of polyethylene terephthalate (PET).

The demand for recycled plastic is very strong, both from UK manufacturers and overseas markets. WRAP has a number of projects over the next two years which aim to switch manufacturing processes from virgin to recycled materials, including a target to support the recycling of an additional 16 kilo tonnes of plastic bottles—an increase of 30 per cent. from current levels.

WRAP has carried out recent trials with a number of major brands using recovered PET to make new packaging for food and household products. The trials showed that using recovered PET for this kind of packaging is a viable option for manufacturers.

The UK's first plant to recycle plastics into materials for food packaging was announced at the beginning of March, following the signing of a £12 million joint private and public sector funding agreement. The

35,000 tonne capacity London plant will increase the UK's ability to recycle PET, which might otherwise be exported for recycling or sent to landfill.

The UK currently recycles or recovers approximately 19 per cent. of all plastic consumed, and this is set to increase to over 25 per cent. by 2010.

Rats

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the extent of the problem of rats at the London Olympics site at Stratford; and what plans there are for measures to be taken to tackle any potential problem; and if he will make a statement. [129018]

Barry Gardiner: My Department has made no assessment of the extent of any problem of rats at the London Olympics site at Stratford and has no plans to do so as this is a matter for the local authority.

Recycling: Standards

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards meeting his Department's Waste Strategy 2000 targets on recycling and recovery. [130628]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a devolved matter and, in Scotland, is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive. However, in England, good progress has been made towards the targets to improve rates of recycling and recovery set out in Waste Strategy 2000. The key targets were to recycle or compost at least 25 per cent. of household waste by 2005 and to recover value from 40 per cent. of municipal waste by the same date.

Figures for 2005-06 show that we exceeded the recycling and composting target, with 27 per cent. of household waste either recycled or composted in England. This is nearly four times the amount that was recycled or composted in 1997. In 2005-06, value was recovered from 37 per cent. of municipal waste.

Following consultation on a review of the Waste Strategy, we intend to build on these improvements and are planning to publish our revised Waste Strategy for England in May.

Reservoirs

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 982-83W, on reservoirs, what the latest information is on reservoir levels. [126586]

Ian Pearson: In January, overall storage for reservoir storage in England and Wales rose by 3 per cent. to 95 per cent. It remained unchanged in February. As of 6 March, overall storage rose to 97 per cent. Two reservoirs or reservoir groups are below normal.

The Environment Agency publishes monthly water situation reports, including information on reservoir storage. The report is supplemented by a weekly update during dry periods. This information is available on the Agency's website.

Round Up Ready Alfalfa

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of international evidence on risks associated with Monsanto's Round Up Ready Alfalfa; if he will list the evidence he has considered; and if he will make a statement. [130790]

Ian Pearson: We have not made any assessment of the Monsanto Round Up Ready Alfalfa as no application has been made to approve its commercial use within the European Union (EU). If such an application were made, a detailed assessment would be undertaken of the potential risks for human health and the environment, as required by EU legislation.

Seals: Canada

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Canadian Government about seal hunting; and if he will make a statement. [130769]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Canadian Government is fully aware of the UK Government's opposition to the seal hunt and we continue to raise our concerns with them at every appropriate opportunity. Most recently, on 28 March, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade (Ian McCartney), met a delegation from Canada to discuss the UK's announcement that we intend to press for an EU-wide extension of the existing import ban of all harp and hooded seals' skin products.

State Veterinary Service

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why the State Veterinary Service is being rebranded as Animal Health; and what form the new organisation will take. [130667]

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of changing the name of the State Veterinary Service to Animal Health. [130523]

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the expected cost is of changing the name of the State Veterinary Service to Animal Health; and how much is expected to be accounted for by *(a)* replacement signs, *(b)* headed notepaper, *(c)* other branded stationery, *(d)* website redesign and *(e)* other costs; [131192]

(2) which of his Department's executive agencies and other connected bodies has changed its name since 2003; and what the associated cost was in each case of *(a)* replacement signs, *(b)* headed notepaper, *(c)* other branded stationery, *(d)* redesign of website and *(e)* other costs. [131226]

Mr. Bradshaw: Animal Health (AH) will be an executive agency, sponsored by, and working on behalf of DEFRA. It also works on behalf of the Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly in implementing animal health and welfare policies, including the regulation of trade in endangered species.

AH will also work on behalf of the Food Standards Agency in England and Wales to protect public health by ensuring that dairy hygiene and egg production standards are met.

The Hampton Review recommended the consolidation of DEFRA inspection and enforcement functions into seven thematic regulators, one being a new executive agency for Animal Health and Welfare, with the State Veterinary Service (SVS) at its core. DEFRA Ministers subsequently determined to merge the Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate, the Egg Marketing Inspectorate, and the Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service (WLRS) with the SVS to create such a body. The Dairy Hygiene Inspectorate joined the SVS in October 2006, and the Egg Marketing Inspectorate and WLRS will join on 1 April 2007.

The organisation undertakes a wide range of tasks (over 600) in animal health and welfare and related areas. The joining organisations have congruent roles relating directly or indirectly to animals, animal health and welfare and public health. As the role of the organisation expands to embrace new partners, responsibilities and enforcement powers, the veterinary-focus of the current SVS brand would not adequately communicate the remit of the organisation.

It is not possible to accurately estimate the cost of this work, or break it down as requested, since it is still ongoing. However, we expect that in total the work will cost less than £60,000.

Veterinary Services: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to improve 24 hour veterinary cover in rural areas. [130668]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) sets guidelines for the provision of 24 hour veterinary coverage in the UK. According to these guidelines, emergency cover requires that a veterinary surgeon deals promptly at any time with first-aid and emergencies either directly or by alternative means (for example, by cooperation with other practices). The veterinary surgeon retains discretion to assess what constitutes an emergency need and may in some ceases delay seeing a case until the next day. There is no statutory requirement for veterinary surgeons to provide 24 cover.

The RCVS has reconvened its working party on 24 hour cover, to review the current guidelines and in particular, consider how these should be applied in more remote areas.

DEFRA is not aware of any instances where 24 hour cover is declining or not currently being met in rural areas. The recent case reported to us in relation to general veterinary cover in the Scilly Isles has been resolved. We have been working closely through the Vets and Veterinary Services working group to address a number of issues, including the provision of 24 hour cover in rural and remote areas of the country. The group includes representatives from the British Veterinary Association (BVA), the RCVS and the National Farmers Union.

We are continuing to work with the RCVS and the BVA to develop the necessary information base to assess whether there are any areas which may be at risk as a result of the changing agricultural base or changes in the rural/urban landscape. This year, we have included specific questions in DEFRA's Farm Practices Survey to assess the farmer experience of accessing veterinary services.

Some rural practices are making greater efforts to co-ordinate their out of hours services in the same way that small animal practices have done for some time. The BVA has indicated a willingness to develop more information on improved business methods for rural practice, which will help many practices to improve the way they provide 24 hour cover.

In relation to the welfare of animals, the Government stress the statutory requirement for keepers of livestock in rural and remote areas to provide appropriate husbandry for animals in their care. We are working, through our Farm Health Planning team, to support initiatives which will enable veterinary surgeons to provide more managed farm health planning and reduce the reliance on care only in emergency situations.

In order to assure greater transparency and to enable a clearer plan of work in relation to Vets and Veterinary Services, DEFRA has agreed to relinquish chairmanship of this working group and we hope to be able to announce an independent chairman shortly.

Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to introduce legislation to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 through Orders in Council. [129280]

Mr. Bradshaw: Section 21 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (VSA) provides power to make Orders in Council to give effect to any agreement between Ireland and the UK concerning veterinary surgeons. There are currently no plans to introduce any such Order.

The VSA has previously been amended by Order in Council under section 2(2) European Communities Act 1972 (ECA). Such Orders in Council may be made for the purpose of implementing EC obligations. DEFRA plans to make such an Order shortly concerning the mutual recognition of professional qualifications as between EC member states.

Other than the forthcoming mutual recognition Order, DEFRA does not intend to amend the VSA by Order in Council. My officials recently held a very constructive and helpful meeting with the President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to discuss proposals from the RCVS Council to modernise the Veterinary Surgeons Act. We are currently considering these proposals and will continue to work closely with the RCVS on this issue.

Warm Front Scheme: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many homes in (*a*) Eastbourne and (*b*) East Sussex used the Warm Front scheme in each year since 2001. [130925]

Ian Pearson: The following table shows the number of households in Eastbourne and East Sussex assisted by the Warm Front Scheme in each scheme year since 2001.

	Eastbourne	*East Sussex*
2000-01	192	1,449
2001-02	413	3,492
2002-03	498	3,294
2003-04	532	3,033
2004-05	406	3,128
2005-06	437	2,242
2006-07 (to 31 December 2006)	370	2,528
Total	2,934	19,166

Waste Disposal

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulation of the manufacture and consumption of lumpwood charcoal is undertaken under the terms of the Waste Incineration Directive. [129939]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste Incineration Directive will only apply in the following circumstances:

(i) the plant manufacturing charcoal uses wood waste that may contain halogenated organic compounds or heavy metals as a result of contamination with wood preservatives or coatings

(ii) and the wood waste originated from construction or demolition waste

(iii) and the plant burns any of the pyrolysis products.

Waste Disposal: Schools

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate has been made of the amount of municipal waste produced by schools. [130629]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a devolved matter and, in Scotland, is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive.

A total of 28.7 million tonnes of municipal waste was generated in England in 2005-06. No reliable estimate is available of the proportion of this which was produced by schools.

Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance (*a*) his Department and (*b*) WRAP has issued to local authorities on the use of spy cameras for the purpose of monitoring local residents at municipal rubbish dumps. [130571]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 190W.

Water Supply: Orders and Regulations

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the (*a*) one-off and (*b*) recurring cost of implementing the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 to (i) businesses and (ii) the regulators. [125608]

Ian Pearson: The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) for the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000, which transposed the requirements of the 1998 EU Drinking Water Directive, was published in December 2000. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Water companies have borne the administrative costs of implementing these regulations. These were estimated as £485,658, involving £439,962 for contingent or one-off costs and £45,696 for recurring costs. The Drinking Water Inspectorate incurred a one-off cost of £50,000 for establishing data handling systems and a recurring cost of £25,000.

For small and medium sized businesses, the proportion of an average bill that reflects the new requirements of the 2000 regulations ranged from nothing to £7.45 (average bills, weighted according to populations served to give regional averages for bill size).

Water: Bills

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average domestic water and sewerage bill was in England in each year from 1996-97 to 2006-07. [130565]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat is the economic regulator for the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales and sets price limits for each water company at price reviews.

The following table sets out the average household bills for water and sewerage customers in England and Wales since 1996-97 in 2007-08 prices.

Average household bills for water and sewerage, 2007-08 prices

	£
1996-97	296
1997-98	298
1998-99	299
1999-2000	303
2000-01	265
2001-02	263
2002-03	263
2003-04	266
2004-05	274
2005-06	294
2006-07	303
2007-08	312

Note

Bills for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are estimates based on provisional and forecast data respectively provided by each company, for the year ending 31 March.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the average *(a)* water and *(b)* sewerage bill in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10, in actual prices, following the implementation of Ofwat's Future Water and Sewerage Charges Final Determination plans. [130577]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat is the economic regulator for the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales and sets price limits for each water company at price reviews.

The following table sets out the estimated average household bills for *(a)* water and *(b)* sewerage for customers in England and Wales between 2007 and 2010.

	Water[1]	£ *Sewerage*[1]
2007-08	150	162
2008-09	153	167
2009-10	154	171

[1] 2007-08 prices

Bills for 2007-08 are based on forecast data provided by each company, for the year ending 31 March. Estimated bills for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are shown in 2007-08 prices and do not take into account the effect of future inflation (measured as RPI in November).

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1070W, on Afghanistan: overseas aid, how many of the 16,000 community development councils have produced community development plans to date. [121637]

Hilary Benn: The Government of Afghanistan's National Solidarity Programme (NSP) reports progress on a monthly basis. As of 28 February 2007, 15,343 Community Development Councils had been elected, and 16,068 community development plans had been completed.

Afghanistan: Schools

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many schools have been built by the *(a)* Afghanistan government and *(b)* international community since the London Compact of January 2006; and how many schools he expects to be built by the (i) Afghanistan government and (ii) international community in the next 12 months. [125704]

Hilary Benn: According to the Ministry of Education (MoE) of the Government of Afghanistan (GoA), since January 2006 a total of 1,011 schools have been built or are under construction. The MoE plans to build a further 1,700 schools in the next 12 months, although this figure will not be confirmed until after this year's budget has been approved. The building of these schools is partially financed by support to the GoA from the international community, although disaggregated figures are not currently available.

The latest GoA monitoring report showing progress against the targets in the Afghanistan Compact states that a total of 510 school buildings are currently under construction by MoE and donors. Again, figures disaggregated by the GoA and the international community are not available.

Africa: Health Workers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to address the shortage of health workers in Africa. [131072]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government recognises that health workers are essential to the delivery of essential health services and achievement of the health related MDGs. DFID therefore invests substantially in health, supporting African Governments to strengthen their health services. DFID uses a variety of mechanisms, including support to international agencies, direct support to Government budgets, working jointly with other donors or through projects. For example, in Malawi, where the shortage of health workers is particularly severe, we provide £100 million support for the health sector of which £55 million is earmarked for the Emergency Human Resources Programme. This programme focuses on improving recruitment and retention through salary increases for health workers, expanding training capacity—doubling the number of nurses and tripling the number of doctors in training—and using international volunteer physicians and nurse tutors while more Malawians are being trained. The programme also supports human resources planning and management capacity in Malawi's Ministry of Health. In Nigeria and Kenya, DFID provides technical assistance to develop human resources for health plans. A long-term £50 million health reform programme has been agreed in Sierra Leone which will strengthen recruitment, training and retention of key health workers.

DFID engages regionally and globally on policy development and advocacy with key institutions such as WHO, the World Bank and African regional institutions such as the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). DFID has recently committed £1 million to support the formation of the Global Health Workforce Alliance which will play a key advocacy, policy and convening role on human resource for health issues.

Health worker brain drain results from a mix of country push factors that motivate staff to leave, and pull factors that attract workers away. DFID works with the UK Department of Health to develop and implement policies that prevent the targeting of developing countries in the international recruitment of health care professionals including agreeing a list of countries from which the NHS does not actively recruit. In addition, the Department of Health has brokered agreement for this Code to apply to major players in the UK independent healthcare sector.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the International Monetary Fund on support to health services in developing countries in Africa. [131424]

Hilary Benn: The recruitment, training and retention of health workers is essential to improve the delivery of basic health services in Africa. This requires budgets that can support and sustain long term public investment. The advice the IMF gives to African countries on budget issues needs to contribute to strengthening health services.

Concerns have been raised in some African countries about the impact of public sector expenditure ceilings on the retention of health workers. We have been closely monitoring the impact of ceilings and discussing these concerns with the IMF. The IMF has agreed to engage further in discussions at national and global level on the issue of health work forces and how these can be best supported by their programmes. These should recognise the constraints all countries face in deciding on appropriate levels of expenditure, domestic deficits and borrowing and also how higher spending on public services can be supported by higher levels of aid. In discussions with the international financial institutions, DFID continues to urge an approach that supports stability, growth and the best use of higher levels of aid. These discussions include the topic of fiscal space which will be discussed at this year's spring meetings.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve access to healthcare in developing countries in Africa. [131426]

Hilary Benn: The core of DFID's work in health in developing countries in Africa is to support national partners in their efforts to build effective and accessible health services which are able to prevent, identify and treat the major causes of ill health.

This includes support to address the shortage of health workers, and remove barriers such as user fees that prevent the poor from using services. For example, in Malawi DFID has provided £55 million over six years to fund an innovative Emergency Human Resources Programme to support the training, recruitment and retention of health workers. This will eventually double the number of nurses and treble the number of doctors. In Zambia DFID has committed £14.5 million over five years to support the abolition of user fees in public health facilities.

In 2005-06 DFID provided £183 million[1] in direct support to health sectors in our 16 priority African countries. We are increasingly working in fragile states including those that have recently emerged from conflict such as Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In last year's International Development White Paper we committed to further increase spending on basic services, including health, to at least half of the UK's direct support to developing countries.

DFID supports access to health care through a range of complementary approaches; through technical assistance and project support; through support for Global Health Funds, our contribution to UN organisation, support for NGOs and, where the environment is right, through direct budget support. We aim to work to complement the efforts of other donors in support of national health plans.

[1] Statistics on International Development 2001-02 to 2005-06.

Africa: HIV Infection

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to prevent mother-to-child transmission of AIDS in Africa. [131071]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is increasing its focus on preventing mother to child transmission of HIV. The UK funds prevention of mother to child transmission programmes in Africa through UNICEF and through budget support.

In Zimbabwe, DFID is initiating a £25 million project designed to address maternal and newborn health in a comprehensive way including diagnosing HIV in pregnant women, improved obstetric care, increasing access to drugs and other pre and postnatal health services, nutritional monitoring of mother and baby with treatment for mother, father and child if they have HIV.

In Malawi, where DFID is the major donor in the health sector, with an investment of £100 million over the period 2004-10, a rapid scale up in prevention of mother to child transmission services is taking place with the aim that every pregnant woman visiting a health facility will have access to HIV prevention and treatment services. During 2005, 5,000 of 7,000 HIV positive pregnant women received a complete course of Anti Retro Viral prophylaxis. The aim is also that more HIV positive pregnant women offered help to prevent mother to child transmission are referred for care and support services—currently only one third of women are referred on. The Government, UN and other partners in Malawi are working to overcome the very real constraints associated with cultural beliefs and practices, weak health systems and structures, scarcity of health staff in the country, poverty and stigma.

In addition to core funding to UNICEF, DFID has provided over $1.5 million to an 'Accelerating Action for Children Affected by HIV and AIDS' programme. This gives focus to the "4 P's—Protection, Prevention, Prevention of mother to child transmission and Paediatric AIDS". The three year programme aims to expand and accelerate action, increase the availability and quality of evidence, improve coherence between the UN and other partners and increase the prominence of children and AIDS across the UN system.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to secure generic versions of *(a)* Kaletra and *(b)* Viread for the treatment of people with AIDS in Africa. [131073]

Mr. Thomas: The United Kingdom (UK) has already pledged to spend £1.5 billion on AIDS programmes between 2005 and 2008: this reflects our commitment to Universal Access. Despite this progress, much still needs to be done. In addition to funding AIDS programmes, we are supporting UNITAID, the new international drug purchasing facility, to fund second-line Antiretrovirals (ARVs), paediatric ARVs and TB and malaria drugs predominantly in low income countries. We hope that UNITAID will contribute to the necessary reductions in the prices of second-line drugs such Viread and Kaletra. The UK is

also helping to strengthen the World Health Organisation (WHO) to accelerate the medicines prequalification process through UNITAID.

In Africa, DFID supports treatment specific programmes; for example, we are providing antiretroviral therapy (ART) in Zambia, Rwanda and also the Democratic Republic of Congo, in programmes that focus on treatment, prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). We also support treatment programmes through interventions aimed at strengthening health systems and the provision of technical assistance to Ministries of Health (MOH), for example in Malawi. Decisions on what and how to fund are made in country and are based on partner Government and other donor investments through the presence and engagement of the Global Fund to fights AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the World Bank and other bilateral funds.

Africa: Maternal Mortality

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the United Nations on additional measures to arrest the recent rise in the number of maternal deaths in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Ghana; and if he will make a statement. [131287]

Hilary Benn: In Ghana, measurements of the Maternal Mortality Ratio are unreliable. The latest official figures are based on the 1993 Demographic Health Survey (DHS) when it was estimated to be 214 per 100,000 live births. A draft review of health sector performance for 2006 suggests a downward trend and an estimated maternal mortality rate of 187 per 100,000 live births. These figures need to be interpreted with care. At country level, discussions with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are taking place over the measurements of maternal mortality in the 2008 Demographic Health Survey and/or the 2010 Census.

Development partners including DFID together with the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNFPA and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), are discussing within the framework of annual plans of the health Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) and the new five-year health sector plan (2007-11), the implementation of package health interventions. This is aimed at accelerating progress towards Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 around safe motherhood strategies, improving access to and quality of emergency obstetric care and the promotion of child spacing.

Malawi's 2004 DHS shows a slight decline in the Maternal Mortality Ratio from the 2000 DHS figure of 1,120 per 100,000 live births, to 984 per 100,000 live births. This is unacceptably high.

DFID has committed £100 million over six years to the Government of Malawi-led health SWAp (2004-05-2010-11). Of this, £55 million will address the human resource crisis through salary top-ups to recruit and retain staff, improved training and, as a stop-gap measure, providing expatriate volunteers to fill training and specialists positions. £45 million will finance the Essential Health Package including improved facilities, drugs and other supplies.

On 30 March Malawi's Minister of Health, Marjorie Ngaunje, launched Malawi's 'Road Map' to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths in Malawi under the SWAp. This strategy aims to strengthen service delivery at all levels of the health system and the capacity of individuals and communities to improve maternal and neonatal health. Districts have also been able to 'kick start' action on maternal health using flexible funds from the SWAp. This includes the signing of 47 service level agreements with the Christian Health Association of Malawi to remove user fees for maternal services and using locum payments to midwives to go to health centres to cover staff shortages.

The UN (UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF) supported the development of Malawi's Road Map. The UN and DFID sit together on the sectoral level Sexual and Reproductive Health Technical Working Group which coordinates stakeholder support to the implementation of this government-led strategy.

In Zimbabwe, maternal mortality has worsened significantly in the last 15 years, due mainly to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, deteriorating health services and increasing barriers to access including user fees. Recent figures estimate that the lifetime risk of a woman dying of pregnancy or childbirth related clauses is one in 16 or 6,250 per 100,000.

DFID is working with the UN (UNFPA and UNICEF) and civil society organisations to develop a joint programme to reduce maternal and infant mortality. DFID will contribute £25 million over five years. This programme aims to protect the lives of mothers and newborns, especially those affected by HIV and AIDS, and to maintain access to family planning services, including contraceptives and to lifesaving obstetric services and newborn care. The programme will build the evidence base about obstacles to sexual and reproductive care, infant feeding for HIV exposed babies after six months, and will support a national maternal and prenatal mortality study in Zimbabwe in order to inform policy options.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to increase financial support provided for projects promoting *(a)* human rights and *(b)* democracy in Burma. [130530]

Mr. Thomas: DFID already provides significant support to projects to help the people of Burma access their human rights and build the foundations for sustainable democracy. Our programme includes a wide variety of activities, such as capacity-building for local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), training for journalists, work to involve poor people in decision-making about issues that affect them, and support for the empowerment of poor women. In addition, the British embassy in Rangoon is carrying out extremely valuable work to build local capacity.

DFID is about to start work on the implementation of a £3 million programme designed to expand and strengthen DFID's work to support increased prospects for a successful transition to democracy and respect for human rights in Burma. The programme will increase opportunities for Burma's people to engage in political decision-making processes at the local level affecting their welfare, livelihoods and governance.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development why his Department has ended funding for the Burma projects of the BBC World Service Trust. [130608]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has recently only supported one BBC World Service Trust project in Burma: a grant of £1,997,513 for a radio soap opera to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in audiences in Burma. The project started in January 2003 and was to last three years. By late 2005, the project was spending DFID's grant more slowly than budgeted, so we agreed an extension until September 2006. A review at that point judged that the project was judged likely partly to achieve its purpose. When the project managers requested a further extension we declined in order to focus our resources on other projects which we judged would be even more effective in reducing poverty in Burma.

Cocoa: Imports

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will meet *(a)* UK chocolate manufacturers and *(b)* others in the cocoa industry to urge them to provide a Traffik Free Guarantee for the cocoa they (i) harvest, (ii) import and (iii) use, and if he will make a statement. [124197]

Mr. Thomas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no immediate plans to meet with chocolate manufacturers to discuss the use of child labour in the production of cocoa, but he met with Cadbury Schweppes at the end of last year and has met with Stop the Traffik. In addition, the UK Government have been engaging with the International Cocoa Initiative, which was set up by the chocolate manufacturers to address concerns about the use of the worst forms of child labour in cocoa production. The Initiative is focusing on surveying working practices in Ghana and Ivory Coast to identify what activities in the production of cocoa would fall into the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) definition of the worst forms of child labour, how widespread these activities are and how best to tackle them. In doing this the International Cocoa Initiative is working closely with the governments of Ghana and Ivory Coast. The Secretary of State discussed the work of the International Cocoa Initiative when he met representatives of Cadbury Schweppes on 2 October. A progress report on the Initiative's work was given to the chocolate manufacturers and other interested parties at a meeting of the Cocoa Task Force hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 22 February this year.

The Secretary of State met with Stop the Traffik, the campaign group behind the Traffik Free Guarantee, on 13 February where they discussed forced labour in cocoa production.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by which aid modality the Environmental Transportation Fund for the Congo Basin announced in the Budget will be delivered; what proportion will be delivered to the 10 country recipients by direct budget support; and if he will make a statement. [131309]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is committing £50 million of the £800 million international environmental transformation fund to support on conservation of the Congo basin's forests, associated livelihoods and civil society participation. The countries concerned are Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Sao Tome.

Funds will be managed by a multilateral development bank and decisions on allocation of funds will be taken by a steering board including representatives of central African countries, donors and civil society. The governance framework is intended to ensure African ownership, effective outcomes, good financial management, and protect the livelihoods and rights of forest people. The UK will work with the Congo Basin countries, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and other potential donors on the details of this governance framework.

The UK's £50 million contribution is for the 10 central African countries as a whole and will finance practical actions at a country level as well as at a regional level. In some countries this may result in a proportion of funding being delivered via direct budget support. Decisions about the means of delivering assistance will be taken by the Steering Board.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 69-70W, on Departments: advertising, if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract with the newspaper for *(a)* sponsoring the supplement and *(b)* the advertorials. [129868]

Mr. Thomas: For the supplement, 'Eliminating Poverty' a summary of the UK Government's 2006 White Paper on International Development, DFID, through the Central Office of Information (COI), commissioned a separate media buying company to negotiate with *The Guardian* in order to obtain the best possible rates. There was no written contract between the media company and *The Guardian*. DFID was billed for the work by COI.

DFID is unable to place the contract for the G8 One Year On *Observer* supplement, advertorials, and Guardian Unlimited microsite in the Library, as this would be a breach of commercial confidentiality.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers and publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic of each was. [129954]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent the following on sponsoring newspapers or publication supplements and advertorials in the last year for which figures are available, and the topic of each are as follows:

Supplements	Cost (inc. VAT)	Date	Topic
Newspaper Supplement in *The Guardian*	£10,714	July 2006	Eliminating World Poverty—a summary of the UK Government's 2006 White Paper on International Development, setting out an action plan for the next five years.
Newspaper supplement in *The Observer*. This price included putting the information on a microsite on the Guardian Unlimited website; it also included 8,000 for advertorials to promote the supplement in *The Guardian*.	£62,275	June 2006	Reporting the progress made one year after the G8 summit in Gleneagles, with a special focus on Africa and responding to climate change.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what meetings took place between Ministers in his Department and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date was of each such meeting. [131034]

Hilary Benn: My hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, and I met with the following outside interest groups during January to March 2007.

Secretary of State for International Development

Date	Group
9 January	Portland Trust
16 January	SCF
24 January	Caritas—Catholic humanitarian organisation
24 January	De Beers—Corporate social responsibility
1 February	Commission of Global Road Safety
1 February	Global Water Partnership
14 February	BG Group
15 February	Wateraid
19 February	Unison
19 February	Palestine Solidarity Campaign
27 February	Oxfam
1 March	TUC Forum
8 March	PCS Union
20 March	Stop Aids Campaign
28 March	Quid Novi Ltd.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development

Date	Group
9 January	Nitan Palan FCA
11 January	NGOs and Ian McCartney, MP—Economic Partnership Agreements
22 January	Chairman of Histadrut (Israel TUC)
23 January	Joyce Wood (Good Teachers)
24 January	Chairman of Trustees of Lady Fatemah's Trust
25 January	Head of Public Affairs WWF
30 January	Keith Darwin—schools in India
8 February	Casa Alianza UK
20 February	Hugo Swire, MP and Lady Nott—The Fund for Refugees in Slovenia
21 February	Chris Mole, MP and Tools with a Mission
7 March	GDI

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development

Date	Group
7 March	Alan Milburn and Professor David Kerr—Cancer Care in Africa
15 March	WWF
19 March	The Global Fund (to fight AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria)
28 March	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch
20 March	Fairtrade Foundation
29 March	England and Wales Cricket Board—Tackling HIV/AIDS through sport

Developing Countries: Health Education

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of sexual and reproductive health education programmes in post-conflict states; [129535]

(2) what support his Department provides to sexual and reproductive health education programmes in post-conflict states; [129537]

(3) what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of sexual and reproductive health education programmes towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. [129538]

Mr. Thomas: The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) especially those for reducing maternal and child deaths and HIV/AIDS will not be attained without progress in achieving sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

This view was endorsed in 2006 when the UN Secretary General recommended a new target within the MDG monitoring framework of "universal access to reproductive health by 2015". An essential element in achieving this will be ensuring that women and men, including young people, have access to condoms, contraceptives, medicines and other products, and the services, information and education they need to protect their sexual and reproductive health.

Conflict and post conflict states pose particular challenges if they are to meet the MDGs. DFID's recent White Paper "Making governance work for the poor" recognises that we must help people have security, incomes and public services. Effective states are central to development, so we must help countries—especially those at risk of falling even further behind the rest of the world—do better in ensuring security, achieving sustainable growth, and delivering health and education for all.

To contribute to meeting the sexual and reproductive health needs of people in post-conflict states we have recently agreed a grant of £5 million to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for them to provide reproductive health supplies. This is in addition to our annual £20 million core grant to UNFPA.

We also have a number of programmes we directly support in countries. For example, in Rwanda we have provided £250,000 to a project which aimed to increase public awareness and discussion of women's sexual and reproductive health issues and lead to positive changes in knowledge, beliefs, attitudes and behaviour. In Somalia, we have provided over £400,000 to a project which aims to provide free primary health care and increase the access and quality of services provided to women. Part of this programme provides reproductive health education and highlights the benefits of family planning and birth spacing for women and their children.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has collected evidence from developing countries on what works in preventing HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections in young people. But I am not aware of specific assessments of the effectiveness of sexual and reproductive health education programmes in post-conflict states.

However, many countries now recognise that education (especially female education) can play an important role in reducing poverty. The link between improved education and improved reproductive health and HIV prevention is also recognised and many developing countries have established or broadened reproductive health policies and programmes. However, over 200 million couples still have no access to effective contraception and 15 to 24-year-olds account for 50 per cent. of new HIV cases. In Africa, 90 per cent. of all HIV infections are sexually transmitted with women and young people disproportionately affected.

DFID continues to give priority to supporting reproductive health and rights for women and to focus our bilateral programmes on strengthening of health systems to deliver effective information, services, and supplies. DFID is investing £1.85 million in a project evaluating the long-term impact of an adolescent sexual health intervention programme in Tanzania.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent work has been undertaken by his Department to find ways of improving maternal health in countries suffering from *(a)* high HIV/AIDS prevalence, *(b)* military conflict, *(c)* weak health systems and *(d)* a combination of all three; and if he will make a statement. [131251]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's strategy "Reducing Maternal Deaths: Evidence and Action" provides the basis for DFID support to improve maternal health at country level. DFID's approach to achieving sustained improvements in maternal health includes work to strengthen basic health services and to ensure that there is full integration between HIV and sexual and reproductive health services and programmes. In countries where there is high HIV prevalence, military conflict and/or weak health systems the challenges to improving maternal health are particularly great.

DFID investments are designed to address the specific needs of a country. For example in Zimbabwe the UK is investing £25 million to improve maternal and newborn health through a programme that aims to ensure full integration of HIV and maternal health services. In Malawi, DFID is providing £55 million to support an Emergency Human Resource Programme to address the acute shortage of health workers, an issue which has been compounded by the AIDS epidemic. This effort directly impacts on the Malawian health service's ability to deliver essential maternity services. In Nepal DFID's long-term support for maternal health has been adapted to ensure that it remains effective in the context of a changing political environment.

Developing Countries: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the UK's aid to the developing world was handled by EU institutions in the last period for which figures are available. [131002]

Hilary Benn: The proportion of the UK's aid to the developing world channelled through the EC over the last five fiscal years, for which figures are available, is set out in the following table:

Fiscal year	*Proportion of UK aid channelled through the EC (percentage)*
2001-02	21.8
2002-03	20.0
2003-04	23.0
2004-05	23.4
2005-06	17.7

These figures are based on multilateral aid channelled through the EC.

The breakdown of Multilateral Aid through the EC is published in Table 16 and Gross Public Expenditure on Development in Table 3 of 'Statistics on International Development 2001-02—2005-06', a copy of which is available in the Library.

Developing Countries: Pesticides

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to reduce pesticide poisoning of those working in cotton fields in developing countries, with particular reference to child workers. [131078]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports a range of projects designed to reduce the risk of pesticide poisoning in the agricultural sector. For example, DFID has researched and promoted integrated pest management practices for cost-effective and sustainable control of cotton bollworm in small-scale cotton production systems in India and Uganda. These practices are currently being scaled up by the Indian Government after they resulted in both increased yields and a 52 per cent. reduction in pesticide use. DFID is a major supporter of development co-operation carried out by the European Commission.

The Commission has provided around €30 million towards a 'Pesticide Initiative Programme', including projects supporting improved training for farmers in various African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. Furthermore, DFID works with both regulators and private standard setting organisations to ensure that good agricultural practice related to pesticide use is supported. These good practices include safe handling, application, storage and disposal of pesticides.

Entering the labour force too early significantly limits young people's opportunities over their life-time. Limiting their physical and intellectual development and future choices and aspirations, it helps to trap families in poverty from one generation to the next. All children have the right to education and should not have to work to survive. The Government are committed to the elimination of child labour and are working towards long-lasting changes that tackle the underlying poverty that is at the root of this problem.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will promote measures to phase out the use of pesticides classified by the World Health Organisation as highly hazardous, with particular reference to *(a)* aldicarb and *(b)* endosulfan, in developing countries. [131079]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has supported a range of training, education and research projects to promote best practice in the use of pesticides in developing countries. Integrated pest management practices researched with the help of DFID have proven to be particularly useful pest control strategies that can significantly reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides. DFID has recently allocated £37.5 million over five years to help scale up some of the most promising research findings and promote their use in Africa and South Asia. DFID is a major supporter of development cooperation carried out by the European Commission and the Commission has provided around €30 million towards a 'Pesticide Initiative Programme' to improve training for farmers in various African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. There is evidence that small farmers have benefited from these projects through significant reductions in pesticide use and increased yield and income.

DFID also promotes reduced use of hazardous chemicals and pesticides through trading standards and good agricultural practices. DFID has provided core funding for the Fairtrade Foundation which, amongst other things, works to ensure appropriate use of pesticides by 'Fairtrade' certified producers. DFID works with the private standard setting bodies such as the Euro-Retailer Produce Working Group Good Agricultural Practice (EurepGAP) to ensure their global standards are attainable and realistic in developing countries and finally, DFID supports the Standards and Trade Development Facility of the WTO to provide capacity building support to developing countries to meet international standards including those related to maximum residue levels for agricultural pesticides and chemicals.

European Civil Peace Corps

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the objectives are of the European Civil Peace Corps; and what the UK's role is in the programme. [130634]

Mr. Thomas: There is no European Civil Peace Corps. The European Union carries out a wide range of civilian crisis management missions to support conflict prevention and post-conflict stabilisation. The UK has strongly supported EU activity in this area politically, financially and through the secondment of UK personnel.

European Development Fund

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 479W, on the European Development Fund (EDF), how many countries have been suspended from the European Development Fund or had measures imposed upon them aimed at remedying a breach of the fund's conditionality since establishment of the Fourth EDF. [129098]

Mr. Thomas: The 4th European Development Fund (EDF) was covered by the Lomé Convention which came into force in 1975. The legal basis which allows for the suspension of co-operation or the application of 'appropriate measures' did not come into force until 1995 (EDF 8).

Since then, there have been 13 consultations under the relevant provisions of Lomé and Cotonou. The countries involved were:

Togo, Niger, Guinea-Bissau, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti, Fiji, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Central African Republic, Mauritania and Guinea-Conakry.

Consultations have generally led to the identification of agreed steps and benchmarks to be achieved for the normalisation of relations. In some cases (Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Central African Republic) full relations and co-operation have resumed. While no country has been fully suspended from the EDF, some remain subject to the measures referred to above (Guinea, Togo, and Zimbabwe).

Gaza: Sewers

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports his Department has made of the recent sewage flooding in the Gaza strip. [131557]

Hilary Benn: DFID has not produced any reports on the recent sewage flooding in the Gaza Strip, but the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) publishes regular updates. DFID is in close contact with UN-OCHA and other agencies to establish the extent of the damage, and humanitarian and longer term needs.

Reports indicate that the volume of waste water exceeded the capacity at the existing treatment plant, leading to the flooding. The World Bank (WB) had been working with the Palestinian Authority (PA) to build a new plant. However, restrictions imposed by Israel and the poor security situation in Gaza hindered access for experts and equipment imports. The excess sewage finally caused the supporting walls of a filtration basin to break, flooding the nearby village of Umm Nasser.

DFID is monitoring the situation and staying in close contact with the PA, civil society and other donors regarding the relief effort. Through the Temporary International Mechanism, the European Commission (EC) is funding fuel for heavy machinery to re-establish the embankment. The European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) is providing €600,000 to consolidate the embankments of the main sewage lake where there is a danger of collapse. The UK contributes about 17 per cent. of EC assistance.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has sent 300 tents, six water tanks, blankets, mattresses and hygiene kits to the affected area. DFID is providing £15 million of core funding to UNRWA this year. NGOs and other UN organisations have identified relief supplies to provide to those affected. UN-OCHA, which is co-ordinating the humanitarian response, has told DFID that the humanitarian situation is under control. They are not requesting any assistance beyond what has already been pledged.

The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and the WB met with the Government of Israel on 28 March. Israel agreed to provide free access to the area, facilitate the import of necessary equipment and provide technicians. The PWA and the WB are looking immediately to address the disaster area, including clean-up and the pumping of surplus sewage to a safe site.

India

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the objectives are of his Department's projects in India; and what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which they have been achieved. [129951]

Mr. Thomas: DFID India's Country Assistance Plan (CAP) 2004 to 2008 defines our objective of achieving poverty reduction in India, through:

More integrated approaches to tackling poverty in the focus states;

Improving the enabling environment for sustainable and equitable economic growth and

Improving the access of poor people to better quality services.

DFID India reviews progress across its programmes and projects in achieving the CAP objectives each year. 'An Evaluation of DFID's India Programme 2000 to 2005' was carried out by DFID's Evaluation Department and published in August 2006. The evaluation found that DFID India's overall development effectiveness is substantial and increased significantly between 2000 and 2005. For example, DFID's support to primary education through the Government of India's Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme has helped to get millions of children into school and to cut drop out rates. Support to civil society in some of the poorest districts of India has also made significant headway in allowing poor and marginalised groups to realise their rights. Copies of this document can be found in the Libraries of the House. DFID India is currently preparing a new CAP.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding and resources his Department provided to India in each of the last three financial years; what plans there are in respect of each of the next three financial years; how much was spent *(a)* bilaterally and *(b)* multilaterally; and through which multilateral bodies UK aid to India has been channelled. [129953]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's portfolio in India comprises programmes at the national level and in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. In addition, we provide funding to several multilateral institutions.

Over the last three years, DFID spent the following amounts on the aforementioned portfolio:

	Amount spent (£ million)
2004-05	259
2005-06	253
2006-07	[1]242

[1] Estimated

We cannot yet state precise figures for the next three years because Her Majesty's Treasury's comprehensive spending review for DFID is underway and we have not yet received our forward aid framework. Current estimates for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are £266 million and £300 million respectively.

DFID's entire programme in India is a bilateral aid programme. We work closely with the Government of India to make sure our poverty reduction work fits India's development needs.

We fund some multilateral institutions in India as part of our bilateral portfolio. Our primary partners are the Asian Development Bank, the UN and the World Bank. Our trust fund arrangements with these institutions are as follows:

Institution	*£ million*	*Period of funding*
Asian Development Bank	50	2002 to 2008
(United Nations Development Programme) UNDP	7.5	2004 to 2008
UNICEF Child Environment Fund	20	2004 to 2008
UNICEF	75	2005 to 2012
World Bank	20	2005 to 2008

In addition to its India programme, DFID also funds several multilateral institutions at the global level, many of which have programmes in India (eg the World Bank and WHO).

Kashmir: Earthquakes

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the relief operation for the victims of the earthquake in Kashmir and Northern Pakistan. [131003]

Mr. Thomas: The Government of Pakistan (GoP) has been leading the response to the earthquake, working with a wide range of international partners, including DFID and other donors, the United Nations, and NGOs. The humanitarian relief phase, which came to an end last year, was successful in ensuring adequate provision of food, shelter and basic services to people affected by the earthquake. DFID committed £58 million to immediate relief. A DFID team

conducted a follow-up mission early this January to review the humanitarian situation now, particularly to assess the effectiveness of GoP's and the United Nations' winter preparations. Our assessment concluded that winter planning was adequate. Basic services have functioned and the coping ability of most people has been restored.

GoP is now finalising its planning for the major reconstruction season that lies ahead. Some reconstruction of individual health and education facilities, particularly through NGOs and donor agencies, is already being undertaken. However, the bulk of the work will be undertaken by GoP through its Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority. This will include large programmes of new and replacement schools, health facilities, roads, water and sanitation services, telecommunications, and Government facilities.

DFID has committed to providing £70 million for reconstruction. Of this, some £5 million has already been spent on reconstructing critical bridges, training teachers and educational administrators and on essential support to maintain TB and mental health services. A further £9 million is currently being spent on improving GoP's capacity to deal with the reconstruction. The £56 million remaining is being allocated to the Government of Pakistan in three parts for reconstruction and rehabilitation against their own annual priorities. We have just released the first allocation, of £17.5 million. This money will be used for housing and for reconstructing critical health, education and other facilities.

Orphans: Finance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the impact of the first two years' expenditure of the funding allocated for orphans and vulnerable children. [130469]

Mr. Thomas: We are currently undertaking the interim evaluation of 'Taking Action', the UK's strategy for tackling HIV and AIDS in the developing world, which we expect to be published later this spring and which will help us assess the impact of our spending allocated for orphans and vulnerable children.

Overseas Aid: Publicity

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to his Department was of the Aid Works DVD campaign. [127610]

Mr. Thomas: From February 2006 to date, the Aid Works DVD campaign cost £76,870.81, which includes the production, marketing and distribution of the DVD. The DVD aims to explain to the public, through two films 'Aid Works' and 'Making Aid Work' why it is important to give aid to poor countries and how UK taxpayers' money gets to those in most need.

Overseas Aid: Water

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department contributed to the funding of the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility on water in each of the last three years; what allocation has been made to the 2007-08 budget; and if he will make a statement. [130740]

Hilary Benn: DFID has supported Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) over three phases since 1999. Our total commitment to PPIAF from 1999 to 2008 is £53 million. Over the last three years, we have disbursed £16.8 million to PPIAF. We do not earmark our funding for specific sectors, allowing PPIAF to respond flexibly to the requests for help it receives from developing country governments.

PPIAF reports in World Bank financial years (July to June) and in US$ dollars. Over the last three years, PPIAF as a whole has spent approximately the following in the water sector:

2004—US$ 2.7 million (£1.47 million), which is 19 per cent. of total PPIAF expenditure.

2005—US$ 3.17 million (£1.6 million), which is 18 per cent. of total PPIAF expenditure.

2006—US$ 3.23 million (£1.6 million), which is 18 per cent. of total PPIAF expenditure.

DFID has committed a total of £5 million to be disbursed to PPIAF for all its activities (including in water and sanitation) for 2007-08.

The majority of developing country governments do not have the capacity to provide good quality infrastructure and services for their people; PPIAF helps them to develop sound policies, regulations and institutions. PPIAF does this by providing developing country governments with technical assistance which they can use to tap the full potential of public-private partnerships in infrastructure. PPIAF also identifies, communicates and promotes best practice on matters relating to public-private partnerships in infrastructure. It is also recognised as a leading resource for training and best practice in the role of public-private partnerships in infrastructure service delivery.

There are many examples of PPIAF's success. For example in Kenya, PPIAF provided technical assistance and training to enable micro-credit banks to lend to small water providers to provide clean water to rural and semi-urban communities. This has led to 21 micro-credit investments and an output based grant which will result in 60,000 people gaining access to clean water.

Also in Ghana, PPIAF supported the Ghana Community Water and Sanitation Agency with regulatory and legal reform to improve small town water services. This has allowed local water operators to provide clean water to communities for the first time. Communities themselves were involved in the selection of the water providers. This has been successfully implemented in three towns and will be rolled out to 300 small towns across the country.

Further information about PPIAF and its successes are available in a fact sheet 'Department for International Development (DFID) Factsheet for the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF)', which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of the

Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility budget has been spent on *(a)* private and *(b)* public schemes for water supply; and if he will make a statement. [130741]

Hilary Benn: The Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) does not separate its activities purely between public and private schemes for water supply. The realities of water services provision in developing countries are more complicated.

PPIAF has supported 97 water sector activities with a total funding of US$ 21.6 million. These water sector activities can be divided into the following categories:

24 activities that support developing country governments with advice on better laws, regulations and institutional structures for the improved provision of water services. These activities help build the capacity of developing country governments to improve their provision of infrastructure and other services for their citizens. Such activities include the establishment of a water regulator, the benchmarking of utilities, workshops and consultations on water sector reform. These activities amount to approximately 15 per cent. of PPIAF funding for water sector activities.

31 activities which supported developing country governments with policy studies, which eventually led to some form of private sector participation in water services. These included small scale, local providers of water services. This amounts to approximately 33 per cent. of PPIAF funding for water sector activities.

29 activities which supported developing country governments with policy studies, which resulted in the continuation of a public sector option for water service provision. This includes public sector performance contracts using private sector principles. This amounts to approximately 40 per cent. of PPIAF funding for water sector activities.

Finally, 13 activities that are ongoing and where the policy option to provide water services has not been decided upon yet by the developing country governments concerned. This amounts to approximately 12 per cent. of the PPIAF funding for water sector activities.

PPIAF is a fund supported by a number of donors including DFID. It provides advice to developing countries to ensure that their citizens get the most out of private sector involvement in infrastructure services. PPIAF achieves this by supporting governments to develop sound policies, regulations and institutions which can tap the full potential of public-private partnerships in infrastructure. It is also a leading resource for training and best practices in the role of public-private partnerships in infrastructure service delivery.

PPIAF only provides advice to developing countries when requested to do so by their governments. For example, in Vietnam, a PPIAF supported grant assisted two small towns with the development of community-based water projects that bring affordable water to poor communities using local private operators. These projects used extensive community outreach to get 90 per cent. of the population to agree on technical, financial and cost recovery options, including tariff design. This demand driven approach is now being replicated through other donor programs and also in the Philippines and Thailand with many other prospects for replication.

Further information on PPIAF's work can be found on their website at www.ppiaf.org

Serbia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 287W, on Serbia: overseas, how much funding the Government provided to Serbia through international institutions in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* the total sum provided by each institution and *(b)* the UK's percentage contribution. [127118]

Mr. Thomas: Estimates of multilateral funding provided to Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo) and the UK's imputed share and percentage share of this funding are provided in the following three tables. Table 1 contains estimates of funding provided by multilateral institutions to Serbia and Montenegro (including) Kosovo) for each calendar year 2000 to 2004. Table 2 contains estimates of the UK's imputed share of this funding and Table 3 contains estimates of the UK's percentage share of this funding on which Table 2 imputed figures are based. The following points should be borne in mind when interpreting the tables:

(1) UK funding to multilateral institutions cannot be directly attributed to any country; the estimates below are imputed shares based on the UK's total funding for each multilateral and that multilateral's distribution of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo).

(2) ODA is defined as flows administered with the promotion of economic development and welfare of developing countries as their main objective, that are concessional in character and convey a grant element of at least 25 per cent. Aid to countries on Part 1 of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) List of Aid Recipients is eligible to be recorded as ODA. Official Aid (OA) has the same concessional and qualitative features as ODA but covers aid to countries on Part 2 of the DAC List of Recipients. (Note: From 2005 Part 2 of the DAC List of Recipients will cease to exist and aid to countries on a new combined list of DAC List of Recipients of Official Development Assistance will be eligible to be recorded as ODA)

(3) The list of multilateral organisations in the tables is not exhaustive; the multilaterals listed are those that provide the DAC with detailed information about their distribution of funds to Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo) and to whom DFID provided funds over the period.

(4) Negatives represent accounting adjustments, not a net flow to the UK; Zero figures are indicated with a dash.

(5) The total UK share of multilateral ODA/OA to Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo) has been revised slightly from the figure given in the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 287W, as a result of revisions made by the DAC to the underlying data.

(6) Figures for 2005 will be available following publication of the DFID Departmental Report in May.

Table 1: Multilateral ODA/OA to Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo) for 2000 to 2004

£000

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	—	562	680	1,978	1,713
Global Environment Facility	—	—	—	—	65
Global Fund to Fight AIDS TB and Malaria	—	—	—	625	720
International Development Association	—	—	—	58,300	92,758

Table 1: Multilateral ODA/OA to Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo) for 2000 to 2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	£000 2004
UN Development Programme	667	1,250	—	692	306
UN Population Fund	46	1,083	1,340	906	—
UN High Commissioner for Refugees	44,650	33,840	—	—	12,292
UN Children's Fund	—	83	360	294	393
UN Regular Programme of Technical	258	90	113	245	267
World Food Programme	152	1,097	247	—	5
European Commission	311,083	426,786	—	209,294	199,688
Total	356,856	464,792	2,246	272,034	308,108

Table 2: Imputed UK Share of Multilateral ODA/OA to Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo) for 2000 to 2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	£000 2004
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	—	87	44	136	126
Global Environment Facility	—	—	—	—	6
Global Fund to Fight AIDS TB and Malaria	—	—	—	32	47
International Development Association	—	—	—	12,889	4,029
UN Development Programme	56	113	—	55	26
UN Population Fund	—	197	144	62	—
UN High Commissioner for Refugees	524	1,135	—	—	1,356
UN Children's Fund	—	6	18	16	21
UN Regular Programme of Technical Assistance	26	8	8	19	19
World Food Programme	3	—	5	—	[1] 0
European Commission	61,159	79,786	—	37,924	34,985
Total	161,768	81,311	209	51,133	40,617

[1] In 2004, the UK share of the World Food Programme funds that went to Serbia and Montenegro was small and rounded to 0.

Table 3: Imputed UK Percentage Share of Multilateral ODA/OA to Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo) for 2000 to 2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	Percentage 2004
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	—	15.5	6.5	6.9	7.4
Global Environment Facility	—	—	—	—	9.7
Global Fund to Fight AIDS TB and Malaria	—	—	—	5.2	6.6
International Development Association	—	—	—	22.1	4.3
UN Development Programme	8.4	9.0	—	7.9	8.4
UN Population Fund	—	18.2	10.7	10.2	—
UN High Commissioner for Refugees	1.2	3.4	—	—	11.1
UN Children's Fund	—	7.5	5.1	5.4	5.5
UN Regular Programme of Technical Assistance	10.1	6.6	7.0	7.9	7.2
World Food Programme	2.1	—	1.9	—	-1.9
European Commission	19.7	18.7	—	18.1	17.5

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing to Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [122944]

Hilary Benn *[pursuant to the reply, 27 February 2007, Official Report, c. 1156W]:* I would like to make the following correction to a statistical error that has since been identified. The response stated that DFID's assistance to Somalia "has increased from less than £2 million in 2002-03 to almost £18.75 million in 2005-06". This should have read "from less than £2 million in 2001-02", instead.

I apologise for the error in the original answer.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid was allocated for Sudan in 2007, broken down by main budget heading. [130484]

Hilary Benn: The DFID budget for Sudan in 2007-08 is £110 million. Some budget line headings are still indicative and do not necessarily mark firm programme commitments. £67 million of the budget will be spent on humanitarian work, the majority of which (£40 million) is to be channelled through the UN-administered Common Humanitarian Fund. The remainder of humanitarian budget will be used to support NGO programmes, mostly in Darfur. There is also a £4-5 million budget allocation for Chad to support Darfuri refugees and other vulnerable groups in the east and south of the country.

The remaining £43 million is earmarked to support development, particularly in southern Sudan. Our main mechanism for this is the Multi-Donor Trust Fund, which will receive £17 million in 2007-08.

At the Oslo Meeting in November 2005, we pledged £317 million ($545 million) for Sudan for the period 2005 to 2007. The UK stands to exceed its pledge for this period. Actual disbursement has been much higher—we disbursed over £290 million in 2005 and 2006 alone, and our financial commitment to Sudan has increased to £110 million in 2007. We stand ready to consider financial requirements for 2008 and beyond.

Tanzania: Overseas Aid

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of bilateral assistance to Tanzania was delivered by direct budget support in 2005-06; and what projections he has made for future delivery of direct budget support as a proportion of overall bilateral aid up to 2009-10. [131308]

Hilary Benn: The proportion of DFID bilateral assistance in Tanzania delivered as direct budget support in 2005-06 and the projections up to 2009-10 are set out in the following table ; the level of spending for 2008-09 onwards has not yet been set.

	PRBS (£ million)	Percentage of DFID programme	Status
2005-06	85	76	Actuals
2006-07	90	81	Projection
2007-08	105	87	Projection
2008-09	115	[1]—	
2009-10	115	[1]—	

[1] Depends on comprehensive spending review settlement

The figure for 2009-10 is a conservative one and may be increased depending on our spending review settlement and continued good progress in Tanzania.

Uganda

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial aid his Department provided to Uganda *(a)* to combat HIV and AIDS and *(b)* to help develop the agriculture industry in that country, in the last 12 months. [104990]

Hilary Benn: In total DFID spent just under £8 million in 2005-06 in tackling HIV and AIDS in Uganda. This figure includes directly targeted support to HIV and AIDS related projects, together with a proportion of UK humanitarian support used by UN agencies in Northern Uganda to help prevent HIV and AIDS. The figure also includes an estimate of the proportion of the £30 million of general budget support provided by DFID to the Government of Uganda in 2005-06 which was used to provide services that address the HIV and AIDS problem.

A significant proportion of the £30 million of general budget support provided to the Government of Uganda will also be used to help develop the agriculture industry in Uganda, for example, in delivering essential services in areas such as Agricultural Research and Extension. In addition, during 2005-06 DFID spent over £2 million on projects to develop the private sector, including agriculture, by improving business regulation, increasing access to finance and strengthening markets. DFID also spent a further half a million pounds on direct support to projects in the Rural Livelihoods sector in Uganda in 2005-06.

Written Questions

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he will reply to question number 121637, on overseas aid, to Afghanistan, tabled by the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes on 8 February. [131177]

Hilary Benn: I refer the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes to the response I gave on 4 April 2007 (UIN 121637).

Zambia: Overseas Aid

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid has been received by Zambia since 1997; what Zambia's economic debt is; and if he will make a statement. [131425]

Hilary Benn: Between the financial years of 1996-97 and 2005-06, Zambia received £662.3 million from the UK as bilateral aid. Of this amount, DFID's bilateral programme totalled £309.6 million and included financial aid, technical cooperation, humanitarian assistance and debt relief. General poverty reduction budget support also featured in financial years 2000-01, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Aid from other (non-DFID) UK official sources amounted to £352.7 million and includes CDC Group (originally known as Colonial Development Cooperation) investments, non-DFID debt relief and contributions from the British Council among other items. Table 1 provides further details on UK bilateral aid to Zambia over the past decade.

Between 1996 and 2004, Zambia also received an estimated £128.7 million through UK contributions to multilateral institutions such as the European Commission, United Nations and World Bank.

Zambia has benefited from substantial external debt relief in recent years. Following the attainment of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Completion Point in April 2005 and implementation of the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) in 2006, Zambia's external debt stock has declined from US$ 7.1 billion in 2004 to approximately US$ 0.5 billion in nominal terms at year-end 2006. As a result, the net present value of debt to GDP ratio has fallen from around 28 per cent. in 2004 to 4 per cent. following the MDRI. At the end of 2006, domestic debt was estimated at $1.74 billion some 20.2 per cent. as a share of GDP in 2006.

Zambia is currently in the process of drafting a debt management strategy to avoid relapsing into an unsustainable debt situation. The UK strongly welcomes the good progress being made in this area.

Table 1: UK Bilateral Aid to Zambia

£

Financial Year	*General Poverty Reduction Budget Support*	*Other Financial Aid*	*Technical Cooperation*	*Grants and Other Aid in Kind*	*Humanitarian Assistance*
1996-97	—	3,200,460	7,031,160	3,760,561	—
1997-98	—	2,837,825	7,012,721	3,199,013	—
1998-99	—	2,525,380	5,620,201	3,536,130	284,077
1999-2000	—	1,051,284	5,157,360	4,983,230	266,053
2000-01	15,000,014	25,895,749	5,367,947	6,595,293	388,184
2001-02	—	32,499,895	4,467,724	4,792,960	217,711
2002-03	—	17,038,809	6,084,034	8,690,280	6,407,759
2003-04	—	14,951,846	5,521,455	4,612,986	1,279,151
2004-05	9,000,000	11,720,117	4,894,246	3,670,354	398,296
2005-06	20,700,000	11,125,959	4,574,717	4,615,373	4,552,220

Financial Year	Debt Relief	Total DFID Bilateral Programme	Aid from other UK Official Sources	£ Total Bilateral Gross Public Expenditure
1996-97	3,280,942	17,273,123	23,130,000	40,403,123
1997-98	2,975,000	16,024,559	30,558,400	46,582,959
1998-99	2,867,453	14,833,240	18,704,229	33,537,469
1999-2000	2,816,469	14,274,396	32,383,000	46,657,396
2000-01	2,735,485	55,982,672	37,362,000	93,344,672
2001-02	2,714,501	44,692,790	14,510,000	59,202,790
2002-03	2,660,717	40,881,599	4,256,000	45,137,599
2003-04	1,154,732	27,520,170	4,747,000	32,267,170
2004-05	871,788	30,554,801	132,952,000	163,506,801
2005-06	2,036,713	47,604,092	54,088,089	101,692,181

Notes:
1. No Sector Poverty Reduction Budget Support was provided between financial years 1996-97 and 2005-06.
2. Aid from other UK official sources includes CDC investments, non-DFID debt relief and contributions from the British Council among other items.

Zambia: Paediatrics

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of access to healthcare for children in Zambia; and if he will make a statement. [131422]

Hilary Benn: DFID works with other bilateral and multilateral partners to support the Government of Zambia in making its own assessments of healthcare. These assessments show that:

Immunisation coverage is increasing (defined as fully immunised by age 1) and has risen from 80 per cent. in 2004 to 87 per cent. in 2006.[1]

The prevalence of underweight children is also declining. 17 per cent. of children were defined as underweight in 2004, but in 2006 this had fallen to 14 per cent.[2]

Infant mortality (deaths under the age of one) has seen a decline from 109 per 1,000 in 1996, to 95 per 1000 in 2002.[3]

Child mortality (deaths under the age of five) has also seen a decline from 197 per 1000 in 1996, to 168 per 1000 in 2002.[4]

Access to AIDS treatment (antiretroviral drugs) for children has also increased, with 7,500 children currently on treatment. This represents 10 per cent. of all those on AIDS treatment in Zambia today. The Zambian Government's goal is that 15 per cent. of all those on antiretroviral treatment should be children.[5]

Sources:
[1] Zambia's Health Management Information System - Ministry of Health 2007.
[2] Zambia's Health Management Information System - Ministry of Health 2007
[3] Demographic and Health Survey 1996 and 2002
[4] Demographic and Health Survey 1996 and 2002
[5] UNAIDS 2007

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1070-71W, on Afghanistan, what the Government's response has been to each urgent operational requirement request from forces in Afghanistan since January 2006; and if he will make a statement. [127391]

Mr. Ingram: As a general rule, once an urgent statement of user requirement has been endorsed by the military chain of command and is therefore progressed as an urgent operational requirement (UOR), a business case is drafted and, subject to scrutiny, approved, and the equipment procured and delivered to theatre.

There are some cases where UORs are not progressed in this way, for example when it is decided that the equipment required can be provided from in-service stocks, or if the capability gap can be filled by using existing equipment in a new way. Alternatively, as the situation on the ground can change so rapidly, the military chain of command may re-assess the requirement.

As the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are still ongoing, detailed information regarding specific UORs remains operationally sensitive, and its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the security of our armed forces.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1646W on Afghanistan, how many people died in the incident at Panjwayi. [127727]

Des Browne: The joint ISAF-ANA report on the incident in Panjwayi on 24-25 October 2006 estimated the number of civilians killed in the incident to be around 30. The loss of innocent lives is a tragedy and ISAF and coalition forces seek at all times to avoid civilian casualties.

Afghanistan: Force Levels

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral statement of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 625, on Afghanistan (force levels), what his definition is of the long term; and what steps he is taking to mitigate against potential damage to the armed forces of current operational tempo. [131741]

Des Browne: Our current planning priority is to see through our commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan. The level of operational deployments is reducing and we judge that it will return to within the level assumed

in our planning assumptions. Some of the measures to reduce the burden on personnel include: reducing the level of non-operational tasking; regularly reviewing the scale and mix of personnel deployed; increasing recruitment and training; and providing financial and non-financial incentives for retention.

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will take steps to bring the standard of base protection in Iraqi bases occupied by British troops up to the level of that maintained at Kandahar air base in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement; [127676]

(2) if he will publish on his Department's website information on the techniques employed at *(a)* Basra air station and *(b)* other bases in Iraq occupied by British personnel along the lines of the information available on the base protection techniques at Kandahar air base. [127678]

Mr. Ingram: The threat faced by British troops at the NATO base at Kandahar air station is very different to that faced by British troops in bases within Iraq. Therefore the protection measures employed will be different at each base but will be appropriate to the threat. An audit of the force protection measures at bases in Basra has taken place recently and work is ongoing to build on the measures that are already in use.

The information on the Department's website is reviewed periodically and appropriate information, which will not compromise operational security, will continue to be placed on the website with respect to UK military operations.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring the standard of base protection at Camp Bastion to the level of that maintained at Kandahar air base. [127677]

Mr. Ingram: The standard of force protection at all UK bases in Afghanistan is appropriate to the threat level in each area.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel of HM Forces have *(a)* lost their lives and *(b)* been wounded as a result of land mines in Afghanistan since the beginning of operations in 2002. [128281]

Mr. Ingram: Since the beginning of operations in Afghanistan, three UK fatalities have been confirmed as being caused by land mines. Since March 2006, some information has been gathered regarding the number of personnel wounded by land mines. It is estimated that since this date approximately 16 military personnel have been wounded as a result of land mines; however, this figure may not be entirely reliable because some very minor injuries may not be reported, and because it is not always possible to ascertain whether an incident is caused by a land mine or an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he considers HM Forces in Afghanistan to be on a non-warfighting operation. [128284]

Mr. Ingram: HM forces in Afghanistan are there as part of a peace-enforcement operation. However, the character of any particular campaign is rarely static and its intensity can vary over time. This requires UK forces to conduct a wide range of military activities concurrently, and transition quickly from one type of operation to another. This is evident in the way in which UK forces are involved in frequent engagements with the Taliban while simultaneously assisting in reconstruction activities. Nevertheless, the aims of the ISAF mission remain to stabilise the security environment so that the Provincial Reconstruction Team and other agencies can operate to extend the Government's authority, to improve the rule of law, and to facilitate reconstruction and development, particularly by supporting capacity-building in the security sector.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of land mines in Afghanistan; and what plans there are for their removal. [128286]

Mr. Ingram: Unofficial estimates of the number of land mines in Afghanistan vary between 5 million and 7 million and the most recent land mine impact survey identified some 715 square kilometres of hazardous areas. There are numerous mine action programmes under way in Afghanistan with some 9,500 Afghans working for organisations coordinated by the UN Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons were for the decision to take the 51 mm mortar out of service in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [129322]

Mr. Ingram: The 51 mm mortar is in service in Afghanistan but is approaching its planned out of service date across the armed forces. Ammunition stocks have been prioritised in order to continue to support its use in Afghanistan. The capability provided by the 51 mm mortar will be replaced by a combination of systems including the 40 mm Underslung Grenade Launcher and rocket hand-fired illumination and smoke rounds. In Afghanistan, this capability is being augmented by a purchase of a more modern and supportable 60 mm mortar.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent *(a)* representations he has had on and *(b)* assessment he has made of the availability of Viper thermal imaging sets for British troops in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [129323]

Mr. Ingram: VIPIR thermal imagery is in use in Afghanistan on a variety of weapons and vehicles, and the number deployed is being increased following a review of equipment requirements.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Tristars are available to serve the supply link between the UK and Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [129425]

Mr. Ingram: There are four return Tristar flights per week on the airbridge to Afghanistan. This requirement is met by one aircraft plus one reserve. Only Tristars that are fitted with defensive measures fly the Afghanistan airbridge. The majority of RAF Tristars are now fitted with defensive measures.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the reliability of the Tristar fleet in making flights between the UK and Afghanistan. [129426]

Mr. Ingram: Operational reliability is assessed by the numbers of aircraft that are deemed as fit for purpose (FFP) against the planned average FFP figure. Aircraft are deemed fit for purpose if they are capable of undertaking the required task on a given day. Aircraft are not available for tasking if they are undergoing scheduled maintenance, modification programmes or any unforeseen rectification work that can arise on a day to day basis. The figures do not reflect the fact that an aircraft assessed as not fit for purpose may be returned to the front line at very short notice to meet the operational need. The planned average FFP for the Tristar aircraft for 2006-07 is 4.8 aircraft per day. As at the end of February 2007 we have achieved a FFP figure of 4.62 aircraft per day for the same period, largely owing to the ongoing programme to fit defensive measures to the Tristar.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of Tristar flights *(a)* to and *(b)* from Afghanistan were delayed for (i) aircraft maintenance and (ii) other reasons in the last period for which figures are available. [129428]

Mr. Ingram: For the period 1 December 2006 to 28 February 2007 the following percentage of flights have been delayed

	Percentage	
	UK to Afghanistan	*Afghanistan to UK*
Aircraft maintenance	7	4
Other	17	24

The other reasons for delays include adverse weather and air traffic delays. The percentage delayed for other reasons is higher for the return leg as this figure includes delay due to the knock-on effect of the late arrival of the inbound aircraft to theatre.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the UK deployment of Apache helicopters to Afghanistan has been affected by technical problems; and if he will make a statement. [129444]

Mr. Ingram: While any aircraft will require routine maintenance during deployment, the Apache has not been affected by significant technical problems. Apaches on Operation Herrick are receiving top priority for spare parts and maintenance, and are in fact delivering more flying hours than asked for. The Apache has successfully delivered on the tasks that it has undertaken, and reports from theatre have been very positive about this capability.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what percentage of the UK's Apache helicopter fleet is available to UK forces in Afghanistan; [129445]

(2) whether UK Apache helicopters in Afghanistan are being maintained by the cannibalising of spare parts from helicopters in the UK. [129609]

Mr. Ingram: At present 19 per cent. of the UK's Apache helicopter fleet is available to UK forces in Afghanistan. This meets the number required for full operational capability.

It has occasionally been necessary to cannibalise aircraft in the Depth Sustainment Fleet in the UK to satisfy high priority demands for deployed UK Apache helicopters. It is possible that Apache in Afghanistan may have been maintained using cannibalised parts from aircraft going back to the Apache Depth Pulse line maintenance system at Wattisham, though this is not a frequent practice.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers from Welsh regiments are *(a)* serving in and *(b)* soon to leave for Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [129702]

Mr. Ingram: Currently there are no Welsh regiments, or elements thereof, deployed in Afghanistan. At any given time, however, there will be a number of individual augmentees on operations, including those in Afghanistan. These may include a number from Welsh regiments.

In total some 170 soldiers from Welsh regiments will be included in the next roulement to Afghanistan.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Board of Inquiry into the loss of Hercules XV206 in Afghanistan to complete its investigation; when he plans to publish the findings; and if he will make a statement. [130496]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1979W.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17 and *(c)* 18-year-olds have served in Afghanistan. [130745]

Derek Twigg: Data on the age of service personnel deployed on operations are not held centrally.

Provisional estimates collated from manual records show that no 16 or 17-year-old personnel have been deployed to Afghanistan since the 'Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of the child on the involvement of children in armed conflict' was ratified on 24 June 2003.

New administrative guidelines and procedures have been introduced by each of the services following the ratification of the Optional Protocol to ensure that under 18 year old personnel are not deployed to areas where hostilities are taking place unless there is a clear operational requirement for them to do so.

Figures on those aged 18 cannot be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

Air Force: Calendars

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date the distribution of the 2007 Royal Air Force desktop calendar was complete. [131091]

Derek Twigg: Bulk delivery of the Royal Air Force desktop calendar to Members of Parliament was made by the Defence Storage Distribution Agency (DSDA) at Llangennech. All stocks intended for delivery to the House of Commons were despatched by DSDA Llangennech on 20 November 2006. In accordance with House of Commons bulk mail procedures the consignment was addressed to House of Commons, 1 Cannon Row, London, SW1A 2JN, and it was anticipated that the consignment would have been received by 26 November 2006. Each calendar packet was individually pre-addressed to MPs to facilitate speedy delivery by the House of Commons mail system.

Aircraft Carriers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he expects any naval bases other than Portsmouth to be able to accommodate the Royal Navy's future carriers. [128586]

Mr. Ingram: In addition to Portsmouth, Faslane could accommodate the Royal Navy's Future Aircraft Carriers, subject to changes in infrastructure.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to commission new naval aircraft carriers; when he expects the carriers to be in service; and if he will make a statement. [131185]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 17 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 326W, to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski).

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1979W, on animal experiments, what the qualifications are of those who will decide whether to continue the experiments involving live goats. [127390]

Mr. Ingram: The members of the team reviewing the need for further use of goats in this research programme are yet to be formally appointed. I shall write to the hon. Gentleman to detail their qualifications as soon as the information is available.

Armed Forces: Children

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the document "Provision of Childcare" provided to HM armed forces recruits. [130642]

Derek Twigg: I have placed a copy of guidance entitled "The Provision of Childcare" in the Library. This is taken from the Army Recruiting Group Instructions Chapter 11, Section 1, Paragraphs 50-55 and is used by the Army Recruiting Group when questions on children and family matters are raised.

Information on this issue is also provided to recruits. I have placed a copy of the RN guidance on child care for recruits taken from BR689, Section 4 Chapter 4 and a copy of the supplementary information provided by the Army to applicants who have dependants. The relevant RAF publication is undergoing review.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance is issued to potential HM armed forces recruits with dependent children. [130643]

Derek Twigg: Candidates wishing to make an application for armed forces employment are required to complete the application form 'AFCO Form 4'. Before completing AFCO Form 4, all potential recruits are required to read the application form information and guidance booklet, 'AFCO Form 5'. This form provides initial guidance to applicants with dependants:

"2.2 Dependants. The Armed Forces will require you to serve away from your home, at times for extended periods, and the Service you are applying for needs to be assured that your domestic arrangements will not prevent you from doing this. If you are married, and/or have children and/or family members dependant upon you then certain conditions apply. The Armed Forces Careers Adviser will provide you with the appropriate information. This includes Volunteer Reserve Service training and/or mobilisation for the Reserve Forces."

During the selection interview, recruiting staff ensure that applicants are fully aware of their service obligations. Applicants with dependant responsibilities and/or those who ask questions on any concerns raised are then given further written guidance detailing their responsibilities with regard to child care arrangements. Once applicants have confirmed they understand their obligations and have demonstrated they have considered child care and would have sufficient cover during period of absence, the selection process is allowed to continue.

Armed Forces: Council Tax

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Department for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* the Scottish Executive on the proposed exemption of members of the armed forces serving overseas from paying council tax; when these discussions took place; what assessment the Government have made of the cost of such a scheme; and if he will make a statement. [131689]

Derek Twigg: I met my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Local Government on 13 March to discuss a number of options on how best to provide support for the council tax costs of service personnel deployed on operations; these options are being further explored. Officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Communities and Local Government have kept the devolved Administrations informed of progress on this issue.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers are serving on S-type engagements. [129690]

Derek Twigg: As at 22 March 2007 there were 1,099 soldiers serving on an S-type engagement.

Armed Forces: Desertion

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definition is used to determine whether British service personnel are absent without leave. [130589]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* An absentee is the term applied to a person subject to military law who absents himself from the place at which his duty requires him to be, without leave to do so. Service personnel are found to be culpable of absence without leave if the absence was due to the deliberate intention of the accused to be absent or if it was caused by circumstances which were within his own control.

Armed Forces: Discharges

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers were subject to a manning control review and were discharged at manning control point in each of the last five years, broken down by regiment. [129688]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers given on 27 November 2002, *Official Report*, column 333W, and 3 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 961W.

There have been no discharges as a result of manning control point review since April 2002.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many soldiers who were subject to a manning control review and were subsequently transferred to the S-type engagements were discharged at the end of their S-type engagements in each of the last five years, broken down by regiment; and under what Queen's Regulations they were discharged. [129689]

Derek Twigg: The total number is 84. This is broken down as follows:

Discharged under Queen's Regulations paragraph 9.393: having completed engagement

	Number
2002	9
2003	8
2004	[1]
2005	[1]
2006	6

Discharged under Queen's Regulations paragraph 9.387: permanently medically unfit

	Number
2002	[1]
2003	6
2004	0
2005	5
2006	6

Discharged under Queen's Regulations Paragraph 9.374: purchase to A reserve

	Number
2002	7
2003	[1]
2004	[1]
2005	[1]
2006	[1]

Others

	Number
2002	7
2003	[1]
2004	[1]
2005	[1]
2006	[1]

[1] Due to the low numbers involved this information is not broken down further where the figure is less than five or by Regiment, because this could identify individuals and breach disclosure and confidentiality policy.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which facilities are currently treating service personnel who have been injured in action and have subsequently returned to the UK; and what specialisms are provided for at those facilities. [127573]

Derek Twigg: Military personnel who sustain a serious physical injury on operations overseas are most commonly received initially at Selly Oak Hospital, part of the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHBFT), which is a centre of excellence in the medical care of the types of injuries our people most often sustain. Here we are able to provide patients who need it with the advanced specialist clinical care required in the initial stages of their treatment.

Patients with serious orthopaedic/trauma injuries may be housed on the military-managed ward at Selly Oak, where these injuries can be treated. But those with other injuries (such as burns or neurological trauma) may be housed on other specialist wards where they can receive the first-class care they require. This may be at Selly Oak, or if appropriate another NHS facility such as the Queen Elizabeth hospital.

Patients who either do not require inpatient hospital treatment, or who require further rehabilitation care following initial treatment, may be referred to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Headley Court in Surrey. DMRC is the principal medical rehabilitation centre run by the armed forces and contains the Complex Rehabilitation and Amputee Unit (CRAU) and a Regional Rehabilitation Unit (RRU). DMRC provides both physiotherapy and group rehabilitation for complex musculo-skeletal injuries, plus neuro-rehabilitation for brain-injured patients. The CRAU, based within DMRC, provides high quality prosthetics and adaptations, manufactured on site and individually tailored as necessary for the specific patient. Priority is given to the provision of prosthetics to enable service personnel to resume service duties.

Personnel with less serious musculo-skeletal injuries may also be referred to one of MOD's 15 Regional

Rehabilitation Units (RRU) in the UK plus Germany, which provide accessible, regionally-based assessment and treatment, including physiotherapy and group rehabilitation facilities. Each RRU has a Multidisciplinary Injury Assessment Clinic (MIAC) team comprising a doctor with specialist skills in sports medicine, a physiotherapist with enhanced skills and a remedial instructor (physical education instructor trained to deliver individual and group therapy), who together provide an assessment and diagnostic service. This team have rapid access to MRI scan or other imaging if required. They then determine the most appropriate rehabilitation plan for the patient, including rapid access to orthopaedic surgery when clinically indicated.

Very occasionally the most seriously injured patients will require specialised care and treatment that can best be provided outside the NHS or MOD's own facilities. One example is neurological injury, where the best specialist treatment can often be provided by organisations such as the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability at Putney, which is a national centre of expertise in its particular field.

We also provide treatment for psychological as well as physical injuries. Mental health services in the UK are delivered through a combination of community-based outpatient care and local inpatient treatment through the Priory Group of hospitals. MOD runs its own 15 Departments of Community Mental Health situated around the UK, with others based in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar. Their teams comprise psychiatrists, mental health nurses, clinical psychologists and mental health social workers. The full range of psychiatric and psychological treatments is available, including medication, psychological therapies and environmental adjustment where appropriate. The Defence Mental Health Services have particular expertise in psychological treatments for mental health problems in general, and psychological injury in particular, using such treatments as Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR).

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what process the support of military, Government, charitable and civilian efforts to assist wounded servicemen and women is integrated. [128479]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The key factor in the Government's duty of care towards the members of the armed forces is ensuring they receive high quality medical care, both while deployed on operations and back in the UK. This can range from life-saving surgery—both in our deployed field hospitals and NHS facilities in the UK—to treatment of routine ailments on a daily basis.

At a pan-Government level the MOD works with the Department of Health and with other UK health departments to agree policy and improvements in communication.

Most primary care of military personnel is provided at unit level by members of the Defence Medical Services (DMS). For physical illness or injury, MOD has its own rehabilitation facilities, with secondary care in the form of hospital treatment in the UK provided by NHS hospital trusts. This is the most effective way of enabling military patients to benefit from the latest advances in medical treatment and the recent major investments in NHS facilities. Casualties from overseas are referred usually to the University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust (UHBFT), which leads the way in the UK for the acute care of patients with complex traumatic injuries of the types suffered by our personnel on operations.

Care for the vast majority of service personnel with mental illness is provided at one of our 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) in the UK and equivalents overseas. This gives our patients access to high quality care, providing regional care within easy reach of unit, base or home. For those few that require inpatient mental health care a contract has been established with the Priory to provide high quality regional care. Close liaison takes place between the Priory and the DCMH. Furthermore the MOD has recently introduced the Reserves Mental Health Programme, which is improving the overall health care we offer to recently demobilised reservists. Information is available by visiting http://www.army.mod.uk/rtmc/rmhp.htm or concerned individual reservists or their GPs can contact a free phone number.

Wider support to injured personnel and their families is provided by a range of organisations, often at regimental and unit level. The main central provider of hospital welfare services is the Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS), which is contracted by the MOD to provide welfare support to service personnel and entitled civilians who are in hospital in the UK, Germany, Cyprus and on deployed operations. Patients are informed about other appropriate welfare agencies. These include the single service welfare services as well as service charities such as SSAFA, St. Dunstan's, Combat Stress, Royal British Legion, etc. and we are grateful for their support.

The single services operate "long-term sick" policies and welfare procedures for patients discharged from hospital. Each of the single services tracks its own patients and coordinates welfare support, which includes drawing on the support provided by service charitable organisations such as SSAFA and individual regimental charities. Families are assigned a visiting officer who acts as the link between the family and the services, and will also direct the family to the most appropriate internal and external welfare agencies for specific areas of support.

There is long-standing policy that the NHS, not MOD, provides care for ex-service personnel. However, the MOD funds courses of care at facilities run by the mental health charity Combat Stress, for those whose conditions are due to service and for whom this is an appropriate course. These procedures are under constant review to ensure that the support provided meets the needs of the recipients.

The Department routinely meets the various governmental and non-governmental organisations described above to ensure an integrated approach to care.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the adequacy of medical care for injured service personnel. [129595]

Derek Twigg: Injured service personnel receive an overall excellent standard of medical care. Serious cases

require access to a broad range of skills only available in a NHS specialist trauma centre. This is provided by University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust for casualties from overseas. Subsequently, the seriously injured are frequently referred to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court, offering world class rehabilitation care tailored to the specific needs of the patient. Patients with less serious musculo-skeletal injuries are normally referred to one of our 15 regional rehabilitation units in the UK and overseas.

Mental health services in the UK are delivered through a combination of military community-based out-patient care supporting local in-patient treatment through the Priory Group of hospitals. MOD runs its own 15 Departments of Community Mental Health situated in the UK and overseas. The full range of psychiatric and psychological treatments is available, and where necessary, in-patient facilities are provided by the Priory Group.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints Modern Housing Solutions received in the last 12 months. [129686]

Derek Twigg: Between 21 March 2006 and 21 March 2007 Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) received 8,779 complaints, which range from missed appointments through to noise levels and problems with vehicle parking.

In recent months the number of complaints has fallen considerably given the improved service now being provided. In the first three months of the MHS contract, 3,091 complaints were received. Since the beginning of January until 21 March, 1,621 complaints were received.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many accidents have been reported due to faulty Modern Housing Solutions property in the last 12 months, broken down by type of property. [129691]

Derek Twigg: During the last 12 months a total of 13 accidents and/or incidents involving occupants in properties maintained by Modern Housing Solutions have been reported. Of these, two have a proven causal link to housing defects.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service quarters were adapted for special needs dependants in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost was of such adaptations. [129693]

Derek Twigg: There are 125 applications that have been completed, or are in the process of being completed, for special needs adaptations in service families accommodation in the last year. The cost of these adaptations is £467,126.59.

Armed Forces: Israel

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops are training in Israel; and if he will make a statement. [130787]

Mr. Ingram: Currently, there are no British troops undergoing training in Israel.

Armed Forces: MRSA

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many servicemen injured in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have contracted (i) a viral infection and (ii) MRSA while receiving treatment for their injuries in UK (A) civilian and (B) military hospitals; and if he will make a statement; [129030]

(2) how many servicemen injured serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan who contracted viral infections while receiving treatment for their injuries in UK civilian hospitals have subsequently had limbs amputated as a result of the infection; and if he will make a statement. [129637]

Derek Twigg *[holding answers 22 and 23 March 2007]:* If an injury sustained in theatre warrants the immediate removal of a limb, the operation will be conducted under field conditions. Service personnel injured while on operation in Iraq or Afghanistan who require further medical treatment are usually aero-medically evacuated to Selly Oak hospital in Birmingham. Once evacuated to the UK, the patient will undergo detailed assessment by the hospital clinical team and further medical treatment, if required, will be carried out. We are aware of no cases of service personnel contracting an infection while in theatre, in transit, or as a military patient being treated in Birmingham that has subsequently led to a limb amputation.

University Hospital Birmingham (UHB) has robust procedures in place to minimise the risk of infection and counter its effects in both its civilian and military patients. UHB does collect overall infection rates, and in total for all patients, it has had 93 MRSA bacteraemia reports across the Queen Elizabeth and Selly Oak hospital sites from April 2006 to the end of February 2007. This equates to 0.09 per cent. of the around 100,000 (mostly civilian) in-patients and day cases treated in this time period and only 0.02 per cent. of the total 500,000 of all patients treated in this period. UHB's MRSA bacteraemia reports have reduced by 32 per cent. in the last two years.

Neither the UHB nor the Ministry of Defence holds a separate database or a record of military patients who have reported MRSA or other viral infections. Therefore, the precise number of military patients diagnosed with MRSA or viral infections in NHS hospitals is not available centrally. This information could be obtained only by searching through individual medical records with that person's permission, and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to reduce troop levels in Northern Ireland. [131004]

Mr. Ingram: On 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 55WS, I announced a structured plan for the phased reduction of troops to peacetime levels in Northern Ireland, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. Under that plan, by the end of July this year, there will be no more than 5,000 military

personnel based in Northern Ireland and units based in Northern Ireland in the future will be deployable worldwide to meet the Government's global defence commitments.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of pay errors the Army expects to encounter when the joint personnel administration goes live. [129987]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* Data migration for Army personnel has been a challenge due to the sheer volume concerned and the age and diversity of the legacy systems involved. The current estimate is that the proportion of personnel who will experience a variance in basic pay in the first month of transition will be between 0.5 per cent. and 3 per cent. This incorporates Army and RAF reserves, as well as regular Army. For specialist pay the proportion is expected to be between 4 per cent. and 8 per cent. Work between now and the first live pay run in April is expected to result in the variances being at the lower end of the estimates range. In cases of mismatch of either basic pay or specialist pay the individuals affected will be notified by the Army in advance and where necessary local payments will be made to ensure hardship is not an issue. Action will be taken to inform the May pay run.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency plans his Department has put in place to deal with any errors made when the Army has its first pay run under the new joint personnel administration in April. [131080]

Derek Twigg: Contingency planning has included a number of dummy pay runs during April to check and confirm the status of pay accounts ahead of the first live Army pay run. A further supplementary pay run scheduled for 27 April 2007 will be used to address any significant issues identified in the initial pay runs.

An Army team is embedded within the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) to assist with the resolution of issues and their communication. For those serving on operations a fast track process exists to escalate any urgent pay issues directly to the SPVA joint personnel administration operations room. A process is also in place to make emergency payments in cash at unit level if necessary.

The SPVA has developed disaster recovery plans and business continuity plans to mitigate the risk of a full system failure.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with the Treasury regarding the long service advance of pay. [131094]

Derek Twigg: Ministers and officials in both the Treasury and the Ministry of Defence have regular discussions on a range of matters relating to the terms and conditions of service, including pay and allowances, for service personnel.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in the roll-out of joint personnel administration to the Army; and if he will make a statement. [128188]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* Good progress has been made with the successful initial roll-out of Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) to the Army being achieved as planned at the end of March. A number of essential post go-live consolidation and preparation activities are currently under way, to ready the system introduction of self-service users.

As planned, roll-out to self-service users will be phased and will be completed by 31 July. E-learning packages have been provided to self-service users and instructor-led training has been given to unit administration staff. The first JPA pay run for the Army is scheduled for payment at the end of April. The Army is prepared for JPA and has put processes in place to ensure that a service individual or their family will not be placed in difficulty in the event of any teething problems with the large and complex transition to JPA.

Armed Forces: Public Perception

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department takes to assess public perception of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [131716]

Derek Twigg: It is important to the MOD that we hear people's views on defence matters. This helps to inform our policies and keep us in tune with public thinking and concerns. We carry out occasional public opinion research to this end.

Results from our central corporate research on public attitudes to defence, commissioned by our Corporate Communications division, are published on our website and included in the reputation section of our annual performance report and accounts. Other parts of the Department—particularly the service recruiting organisations—also conduct occasional public research in support of their business objectives.

Armed Forces: Personnel's Perception

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment his Department has made of armed forces personnel's perceptions of *(a)* the calibre, capability and quality of military equipment and *(b)* working patterns and pressures of service in the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [131717]

Mr. Ingram: These issues are covered in the armed forces continuous attitude surveys, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. The latest continuous attitude surveys are expected to be published and placed in the Library of the House in May.

Armed Forces: Rules of Engagement

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is responsible for *(a)* drawing up and *(b)* agreeing rules of engagement under which British armed forces serve; and whether the rules of engagement are the same in Afghanistan and Iraq. [130680]

Des Browne: Responsibility for drawing up rules of engagement rests jointly with Ministry of Defence operational, policy and legal personnel. Individual rules of engagement are drawn up for each theatre of operation to ensure that they reflect the specific circumstances faced by UK troops in each theatre and the objectives they seek to achieve. Ministers approve all rules of engagement.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the rules of engagement have changed in respect of contact with Iranian forces following the recent abduction by Iran of 15 Royal Navy personnel; [130681]

(2) whether the rules of engagement in Iraq have been changed to permit artillery fire against indirect mortar and rocket fire. [130793]

Des Browne: In order to safeguard the security of our armed forces on operations, it is Ministry of Defence policy not to comment on specific operational profiles or the rules therein.

Armed Forces: Selly Oak Hospital

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what surveys have been carried out among injured service personnel treated at Selly Oak hospital to ascertain their views on the quality of the care and treatment they received; and if he will make a statement. [129396]

Derek Twigg: The Royal Centre for Defence Medicine is undertaking a pilot military patient survey of military patients over the period up to the end of June. The survey covers military in-patients treated at hospitals of the University Hospitals Birmingham Foundation Trust, including Selly Oak, which is the principal receiving hospital for military patients.

Emerging results from this pilot survey are being regularly analysed to establish any significant trends and to note any concerns expressed by patients. Our most recent analysis found that 98 per cent. of those who answered the question "Overall, how would you rate the care you received?" responded that it was "excellent", "very good" or "good". The survey is anonymous, but concerns expressed by individuals that may have a general application are all addressed, in consultation with NHS management as necessary, as we continue to seek further improvements in the care that our service men and women receive.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the level of recovery of injured service personnel treated at Selly Oak hospital compared with other previous arrangements. [129397]

Derek Twigg: It is difficult to compare like with like, given the changes that have occurred since the decision to close military hospitals in the mid-1990s, including advances in medicine, on the battlefield and elsewhere, and the level of personal protection now available to our troops. These changes have contributed to substantial improvements in the prospects of survival and recovery from serious wounds.

The Chief of the General Staff commented in a recent interview,

> "There is nowhere better in the country, nowhere more expert at polytrauma medicine than Selly Oak, that's why our people are there".

Armed Forces: Uniforms

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what clothing contracts let by his Department have been *(a)* awarded to overseas companies and *(b)* subcontracted from UK companies to overseas companies in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [131128]

Mr. Ingram: Information is available only on the number of clothing contracts let over the last four financial years. Records prior to this date are not held centrally and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since April 2003, 40 clothing contracts have been awarded directly to overseas companies at an estimated value of £12.8 million. During the same period 465 clothing contracts have been placed directly with UK companies at an estimated value of £192 million. It is not possible to provide the number of overseas clothing subcontracts placed by UK prime contractors as this information is not held by the MOD. At the time of contract placement, however, these companies indicated that approximately £91.5 million of the work would be undertaken offshore. Records of any subsequent subcontracting arrangements are not held.

Army Board: Members

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions the *(a)* Assistant Chief of the General Staff, *(b)* Chief of the General Staff, *(c)* Adjutant General and *(d)* non-ministerial members of the Army Board have met hon. Members in the last 12 months. [127538]

Derek Twigg: Non-ministerial members of the Army Board have met with hon. Members on the following occasions. Meetings with Defence Ministers are not included:

Chief of the General Staff:

13 March 2006—The right hon. Mr. David Cameron MP

25 May 2006—Sir Patrick Cormack MP

12 October 2006—Armed forces parliamentary scheme lunch at the House of Commons.

Adjutant General:

13 November 2006—visit by armed forces parliamentary scheme—Mike Penning MP

24 November 2006—The right hon. Sir Menzies Campbell MP, QC and Nick Harvey MP

Director General Land Equipment:

21 March 2006—Mr. Robert Flello MP, Mrs. Clare Curtis-Thomas MP and Mr. Christopher Fraser MP

General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland:

11 May 2006—Mr. Laurence Robertson MP

12 June 2006—Dr. Liam Fox MP

19 October 2006—Mr. Mark Harper MP

19-20 January 2007—Mr. Robert Flello MP and Mr. Stephen O'Brien MP

Army Board: Official Cars

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* make and *(b)* model is of each car provided to non-ministerial members of the Army Board. [128790]

Derek Twigg: Due to security considerations, I am withholding details of precisely which model of car is used by each non-ministerial member of the Army Board. However, the range of cars is:

Audi S8
Lexus 430
Ford Mondeo
Rover 75
Toyota Avensis
Jaguar XJ8
Vauxhall Omega
Vauxhall Vectra

Army Costs

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 749-50W, on army costs, if he will make an assessment of the market value of the house occupied by the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland. [130217]

Derek Twigg: The house occupied by the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland is within the confines of a barracks and so could not be sold on the open market without extensive work to separate it from the remainder of the site. There are no plans to put the property on the market and no assessment of market value is therefore planned.

Army: Discharges

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many discharges there were of *(a)* Nepalese and *(b)* other soldiers from the Army in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what monitoring has taken place of the type of housing obtained by those discharged; what additional funding has been given to appropriate local authorities to enable them to provide accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [130132]

Derek Twigg: Outflow of Gurkha and other soldiers and officers from the UK regular Army in each of the last five years is shown in the table:

	Gurkhas			*UK regular forces*		
Outflow date	*Officer*	*Soldier*	*Total*	*Officer*	*Soldier*	*Total*
2001-02	10	220	240	1,090	13,290	14,380
2002-03	20	270	280	980	13,580	14,560
2003-04	20	280	300	950	13,640	14,600
2004-05	10	250	260	1,100	13,970	15,070
2005-06	10	260	280	1,070	13,120	14,190
1 February 2007[1]	10	190	200	1,230	13,650	14,880

[1] Date periods are for financial years except for 1 February 2007 which represents the 12 month period ending 31 January 2007.

The MOD does not monitor the type of housing obtained by UK regular soldiers and officers who are discharged from regular service and does not provide additional funding to local authorities to enable them to provide accommodation for discharged personnel.

Prior to 2004, all Gurkha officers and soldiers were required to return to Nepal for discharge purposes as part of their conditions of service. From 2004 onwards, Gurkhas became entitled to benefit from the HM Forces Immigration Rule if they were discharged with at least four years' service on or after 1 July 1997. Once discharged in Nepal, ex-Gurkhas may apply for indefinite leave to enter the UK and if granted, may settle and work here. However, this would be as private individuals, whom the MOD does not monitor.

The Joint Service Housing Advice Office provides housing information and advice to service personnel and their dependants seeking information about civilian housing. This is delivered through a series of one day briefings in the UK, Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar, and via their website. In addition, a monthly magazine 'Housing Matters' is distributed to service units worldwide.

Army: Manpower

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 750W, on army manpower, what the *(a)* ranks and *(b)* regiments are of those members of the armed forces assigned to the households of members of the Army Board; what their (i) roles and (ii) professional skills are; how many non-armed forces staff are assigned to each of the households of members of the Army Board; and what their roles are. [130213]

Derek Twigg: For those members of the Army Board assigned household staff at a cost to the Ministry of Defence, the details are:

Rank	*Regiment*	*Role*	*Skills*
CGS			
Colour Sergeant	Yorkshire Regiment	House Manager	Has attended the Mess Supervisor and Mess Steward courses
Corporal	Yorkshire Regiment	House Orderly	Has attended the Mess Supervisor and Mess Steward courses
GOC NI			
Sergeant	The Rifles	House Sergeant	No formal skill requirement
Corporal	Royal Logistic Corps	Cook	Chef Class 1, City and Guilds 7061 in Catering and NVQ Level 3 in Catering
Civilian[1]	—	—	—
CinC LAND			
Corporal (Lance Sergeant)	Welsh Guards	House Sergeant	Mess Steward and Mess Supervisor; Category B and C driving
Private (Guardsman)	Welsh Guards	House orderly and valet	Mess Steward; Category B driving
Civilian[2]	—	—	—

Rank	Regiment	Role	Skills
Adjutant General			
Sergeant	Royal Artillery	House Sergeant	No formal skill required
Civilian[3]	—	—	—

[1] Gardener and Cleaner
[2] Full-time (40 hours) Gardener; Full-time (40 hrs) Cleaner; Part-time (20 hrs) Assistant Cleaner; Part-time (2 days per week) chef
[3] 1 full-time domestic assistant; 2 gardener working 32 hours per week

Army: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which sites in County Armagh have been requisitioned by his Department for use by the British Army under emergency powers legislation since 1977; [130980]

(2) which sites in County Armagh have been leased from landowners by his Department for use by the British Army without the use of emergency powers legislation since 1977. [130982]

Mr. Ingram: Given the need to obtain and analyse records going back 30 years, many of which are not held centrally or in an electronic form, it will take some time to provide a substantive reply, even if the required information still exists. I will write to the hon. Lady and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Astute Class Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for time taken to agree a contract price for the second and third Astute class SSNs; and if he will make a statement. [125145]

Mr. Ingram: The development of robust and mature prices for Astute Boats 2 and 3 has required the design for the first 3 boats and the Boat 1 build programme to reach a higher level of maturity. The contract prices remain subject to approval.

Basra Air Base

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Iraqi *(a)* civilians, *(b)* police and *(c)* military personnel are expected to work in Basra Air Base. [130023]

Des Browne: Approximately 130 Iraqi military personnel are currently based at Basra Air Station. This figure will increase to around 200 personnel once the 10 Division headquarters moves from Basra Air Station in summer 2007 and the buildings have been converted to a Joint Leadership Academy. Some of those attending courses at the academy will be police personnel but it is not possible to estimate how many this will be at any one time.

As at 20 March 2007, around 780 Iraqi civilians were working at Basra but this figure fluctuates significantly on a daily basis depending on a number of factors including contractor activity and requirements for construction work.

Bell 412 Helicopter

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the acquisition costs were at 2006 prices of the Bell 412 helicopter as operated by the Army Air Corps; and what the average total operating cost is of the helicopter per hour. [130025]

Mr. Ingram: The Army Air Corps operates Bell 212 helicopters (a two bladed variant of the 412). The Bell 412 helicopter is operated only by the Royal Air Force. Both variants, however, are provided through lease contracts and are not owned by the Department.

The lease contracts are based on firm monthly charges which are inclusive of all costs (less fuel) associated with the provision of serviceable helicopters for the MOD. The monthly charge payable by the MOD includes leasing and operating costs and is in the region of £2,000 per hour per helicopter. Approximately one third of this monthly charge is attributable to operating costs.

Conflict Prevention

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which theatres the armed forces have engaged in conflict prevention operations in 2006-07. [131087]

Mr. Ingram: The majority of the MOD's conflict prevention activity in 2006-07, as most recently set out in our Spring Supplementary Estimates, has been through our operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans. The MOD has also continued to participate fully in the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP).

The GCPP maintains a number of geographic and thematic strategies, addressing conflict issues around the world (outside sub-Saharan Africa, which is the preserve of the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool). In 2006-07, the GCPP supported geographic strategies active in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, the Caribbean, Latin America, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan, Indonesia, East Timor, the Middle East and North Africa, Nepal, and Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States. In addition to these geographic strategies, the GCPP thematic strategies, which address the United Nations, Small Arms and Light Weapons, and Security Sector Reform issues, are also carrying out conflict prevention work around the world.

Departmental Offices

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what area of office space his Department and its agencies used in central London in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2006; and if he will make a statement. [112181]

Derek Twigg: In 2004, the Ministry of Defence's office space in central London amounted to a total net internal area of 148,000m^2; of which 55,000m^2 was leased and 93,000m^2 owned. By 2006 the figures had reduced to a total of 99,000m^2; of which 16,000m^2 was leased and 83,000m^2 owned.

During 2004, the main building redevelopment was completed and the building reoccupied, allowing the closure of a number of buildings used as decant accommodation and an overall reduction in the number of MOD office buildings in central London from seven to three. This reflects the progress the Department has made to reduce the size of the London estate, while maintaining the efficient and effective delivery of defence objectives.

Departments: Compensation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place on his Department's website a report of compensation payments made by his Department in the last 12 months. [129241]

Derek Twigg: The information relating to common law compensation payments is contained in the Ministry of Defence's claims annual report that is published each July and placed on the Department's website.

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by his Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130136]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence has not appointed any former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 to its public bodies.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will break down the financial year 2005-06 outturn for resources 1, 2 and 3 provision for each subhead by *(a)* near cash departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* non-cash DEL, *(c)* capital DEL, *(d)* near cash annual managed expenditure, *(e)* non-cash annual managed expenditure, *(f)* capital annual managed expenditure, *(g)* near cash non-budget and *(h)* non-cash non-budget. [131097]

Mr. Ingram: The outturn for resource expenditure (Request for Resources 1, 2 and 3) for the 2005-06 financial year is analysed in the following table.

Ministry of Defence—breakdown of final resource outturn 2005-06 by DEL, AME and non budget—Provision of Defence Capability R(RI

TLB	Estimate type	Final outturn (£000)
Commander-in-Chief Fleet	DEL near cash	1,439,521
	DEL non cash	2,108,013
	Total DEL	3,547,534
	AME near cash	—
	AME non cash	8,153
	Total AME	8,153
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget non cash	37,948
	Total non Budget	37,948
Total Commander-in-Chief Fleet		3,593,635
General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland	DEL near cash	424,954
	DEL non cash	154,554
	Total DEL	579,508
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	0
	Non Budget non cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
Total General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland		579,508
Commander in Chief Land	DEL near cash	4,217,704
	DEL non cash	1,414,240
	Total DEL	5,631,944
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	0
	Non Budget non cash	1,618
	Total Non Budget	1,618
Total Commander in Chief Land		5,633,562
Air Officer Commanding In Chief RAF Strike Command	DEL near cash	1,991,995
	DEL non cash	2,050,776
	Total DEL	4,042,771
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget non cash	725
	Total Non Budget	725
Total Air Officer Commanding In Chief RAF Strike Command		4,043,496

Ministry of Defence—breakdown of final resource outturn 2005-06 by DEL, AME and non budget—Provision of Defence Capability R/RI

TLB	Estimate type	Final outturn (£000)
Chief of Joint Operations	DEL near cash	339,862
	DEL non cash	231,316
	Total DEL	571,178
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	7,244
	Total AME	7,244
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget non cash	7
	Total Non Budget	7
Total Chief of Joint Operations		578,429
Chief of Defence Logistics	DEL near cash	4,624,301
	DEL non cash	2,898,611
	Total DEL	7,522,912
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	3,614
	Total AME	3,614
	Non Budget near cash	4,818
	Non Budget non cash	208,689
	Total Non Budget	213,507
Total Chief of Defence Logistics		7,740,033
2nd Sea Lord/Commander In Chief Naval Home Command	DEL near cash	681,363
	DEL non cash	96,346
	Total DEL	777,709
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget non cash	26
	Total Non Budget	26
Total 2nd Sea Lord/CinC Naval Home Command		777,735
Adjutant General	DEL near cash	1,587,615
	DEL non cash	349,866
	Total DEL	1,937,481
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	9,811
	Non Budget non cash	1,332
	Total Non Budget	11,143
Total Adjutant General		1,948,624
Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command	DEL near cash	784,812
	DEL non cash	118,764
	Total DEL	903,576
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	1,607
	Non Budget non cash	1,946
	Total Non Budget	3,553
Total Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command		907,129
Central	DEL near cash	2,164,892
	DEL non cash	319,629
	Total DEL	2,484,521
	AME near cash	—
	AME non cash	3,916
	Total AME	3,916
	Non Budget near cash	-4,979
	Non Budget non cash	5,415
	Total Non Budget	436
Total Central		2,488,873
Defence Procurement Agency	DEL near cash	1,498,458
	DEL non cash	795,114
	Total DEL	2,293,572
	AME near cash	—
	AME non cash	-200,184
	Total AME	-200,184
	Non Budget near cash	1,922
	Non Budget non cash	783,773
	Total Non Budget	785,695
Total Defence Procurement Agency		2,879,083
Science and Technology	DEL near cash	505,429

Ministry of Defence—breakdown of final resource outturn 2005-06 by DEL, AME and non budget—Provision of Defence Capability RfR1

TLB	Estimate type	Final outturn (£000)
	DEL non cash	-3,824
	Total DEL	501,605
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget non cash	0
	Total Non Budget	0
Total Science and Technology		501,605
Defence Estates	DEL near cash	859,658
	DEL non cash	200,651
	Total DEL	1,060,309
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	4,150
	Non Budget non cash	1,520
	Total Non Budget	5,670
Total Defence Estates		1,065,979
Conflict Prevention RfR2	DEL near cash	990,678
	DEL non cash	65,170
	Total DEL	1,055,848
	AME near cash	0
	AME non cash	0
	Total AME	0
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total Non Budget	0
Total Conflict Prevention RfR2		1,055,848
War Pensions and Benefits RfR3	DEL near cash	4
	DEL non cash	2,200
	Total DEL	2,204
	AME near cash	1,066,932
	AME non cash	-541
	Total AME	1,066,391
	Non Budget near cash	—
	Non Budget non cash	—
	Total Non Budget	0
Total War Pensions and Benefits RfR3		1,068,595
MOD Total		34,862,134

Provision of Defence Capability RfR1 totals

Estimate type	Final outturn (£000)
DEL near cash	21,120,564
DEL non cash	10,734,056
Total DEL	31,854,620
AME near cash	0
AME non cash	-177,257
Total AME	-177,257
Non Budget near cash	17,329
Non Budget non cash	1,042,999
Total Non Budget	1,060,328
Total RFR1	32,737,691

The outturn for capital expenditure (Request for Resources 1 and 2) for the 2005-06 financial year is set out in tables 11 and 13 (pages 128 and 129) of the Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06 (HC 1394), which is also available on our website:

www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReports05061.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methodology is used to calculate the figures for Votes A maxima. [131734]

Mr. Ingram: Votes A maxima are based on previous data and known trends, and then a contingency is added to take account of in-year strength fluctuations. Under no circumstances should the Votes A maximum in any category be breached and it is for this reason that such contingency margins are required.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers or publications in the latest year for which figures are available; and what the topic was of each publication. [129453]

Derek Twigg: The extent to which my Department sponsors newspaper or publication supplements and/or advertorials is restricted to the Armed Forces recruiting organisations:

Naval Service

12 advertorials were placed across the following magazines:

'Loaded'; 'Nuts'; 'Glamour'; and 'Cosmopolitan'. They were an integral part of the Royal Navy's recruit marketing strategy and were designed to illustrate what life is like for typical serving personnel. The total cost was £128,000.

Army

Double page spreads and full page advertorials were placed in the following publications:

'Bella' (2 editions); 'Best' (2); 'Chat' (2); 'Take a Break' (2); 'That's Life' (2); 'Woman's Own' (2); 'Hello'; 'OK'; 'Max Power'; and 'Nuts'. Each featured an interview with an infantry soldier and a 'Gatekeeper' and focused on the benefit of the career, how it changed the soldier for the better and the pride felt by the family. Key facts on an infantry career and a call to action were also included. The total cost was £254,000.

RAF

Advertorials were placed in the following publications:

'FHM' (2 editions); 'More' (2); 'Nuts' (2); 'Zoo' (2); 'Bliss'; 'B Mag'; 'Company'; 'Glamour'; 'Loaded'; 'Maxim'; and 'Men's Health'. Each featured a male or female case study. The total cost was £111,000.

Departments: Repairs and Maintenance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to public funds was of the recent refurbishment of his Department's building. [129721]

Derek Twigg: The physical refurbishment of the Department's main building cost £323 million (VAT exclusive) and has created a modern and efficient workspace capable of intensive use for the next 20 years and beyond.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128765]

Derek Twigg: Defence Ministers held a total of 25 meetings with trade union representatives in 2006. The Secretary of State held five meetings, the Minister for the Armed Forces held six meetings, the Minister for Defence Procurement held 12 meetings. I held two meetings and my predecessors held two meetings.

Diego Garcia: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 604W, on Diego Garcia: USA, on how many occasions since *(a)* the exchange of notes and *(b)* the updated exchange of notes the UK has (i) been asked and (ii) given approval for operations carried out by the United States from Diego Garcia. [131060]

Des Browne: The notes allow the US to use the base as a forward operating location for aircraft and ships. Over the last 40 years many thousands of flights and ship movements have taken place, each of which is subject to UK authorisation. Records of such authorisations are not maintained centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

EC Defence Policy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the outcome of the EU Defence Ministers' meeting on 1 March. [131084]

Des Browne: The meeting in Wiesbaden on 1-2 March was an opportunity for EU Defence Ministers to discuss a range of issues, including ESDP operations and forthcoming civilian missions, EU-UN relations, military capabilities and the European Defence Agency. It was an informal meeting and, as such, no formal decisions were made.

Eurofighter

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether any of the Eurofighters being sold to Saudi Arabia under the agreement announced in August 2006 are already in production; [106850]

(2) when he expects to answer question 106850, on Eurofighters, tabled by the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green on 28 November 2006. [130603]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave on 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 84W.

Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent White Paper

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will list the public meetings on the White Paper, "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994) which *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have attended since 4 December 2006; and who organised each meeting; [129114]

(2) if he will list the invitations to debate the Defence White Paper, "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994) which his Department has turned down since 4 December 2006; from which organisations each invitation was received; and what the reason for declining the invitation was in each case. [129115]

Des Browne: The following table sets out which public events MOD Ministers have attended on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent since 4 December 2006:

Date	*Minister*	*Event*
22 January	Secretary of State	Progress (Think Tank) Debate
24 January	Minister (Defence Equipment and Support)	House of Lords debate
25 January	Secretary of State	Speech at King's College, London
6 February	Secretary of State	Defence Select Committee evidence session
28 February	Secretary of State	More 4 debate
4 March	Secretary of State	St. Matthew's Church, Kilmarnock
7 March	Secretary of State	RUSI debate
12 March	Minister (Defence Equipment and Support)	BBC 10 O'clock news
12 March	Minister (Defence Equipment and Support)	BBC Newsnight

Date	Minister	Event
14 March	Minister (Defence Equipment and Support)	BBC Radio 4 World at One
14 March	Secretary of State	House of Commons debate

The two parliamentary debates were organised by the Government. The remaining events were organised co-operatively between the Ministry of Defence and the respective hosts.

Ministers from other Departments have also discussed the future of the nuclear deterrent at both domestic and international public events. Ministers also took part in debates organised by the Labour party but these are not listed as they were party political events.

Since 4 December 2006, the only invitation I am aware of which was declined by MOD Ministers was received from the Oxford Research Group. The invitation was declined because it clashed with prior diary commitments.

Gurkhas

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* funds from his Department and *(b)* Regimental funds are available for spouses of retired Gurkha soldiers resident in the UK to learn English; and if he will make a statement. [130829]

Derek Twigg: The families of Gurkha soldiers benefit, whilst serving, from extensive welfare support services, including language and interpretation assistance where practicable, to help them integrate into UK society. Retired Gurkhas who have registered for the Enhanced Learning Credit (ELC) Scheme, in common with all discharged service personnel, may draw upon it for up to 10 years post discharge. The ELC scheme assists serving and retired soldiers to follow a course of study with an accredited provider, which leads to a National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Level 3.

Harrier GR7

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which versions of the Harrier are operated by the Royal Air Force in Afghanistan; what the acquisition cost was of each aircraft; and what the average total operating cost is per hour of Harriers deployed in Afghanistan. [130014]

Mr. Ingram: There are currently six GR7 and two GR9 Harrier aircraft operating in Afghanistan.

In the time available it has not been possible to trace the cost paid for these aircraft when first acquired. Their average historical cost is approximately £14 million. This was the value of the aircraft when first entered on the MOD's fixed asset register in financial year 1997-98.

The total cost per funded flying hour across the Harrier fleet is approximately £37,000. This includes forward and depth servicing, fuel, the cost of one Flight Lieutenant pilot, training support costs and the cost of capital charge and depreciation.

Hercules Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the fitting of kevlar matting to the cargo bays of Hercules aircraft. [127600]

Mr. Ingram: In order to protect our personnel on operations, it is the Ministry of Defence policy not to comment in detail about current or planned levels of air platform protection. We constantly monitor a range of factors including the threat, technology available and industrial capacity to ensure that our aircraft on operations are equipped with appropriate protection systems.

International Security Assistance Force

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much financial support each NATO member supplied to the International Security Assistance Force in each year since 2001. [131106]

Des Browne: NATO policy is that the costs of deploying forces as part of a NATO-led operation, including the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, are met nationally. The UK does not have the details of what costs were met by the 26 NATO and 11 non-NATO nations that have deployed troops with ISAF since 2001.

A relatively small proportion of operational costs are met from the NATO common fund, to which each NATO member contributes a percentage as follows:

	Percentage
Belgium	2.88
Bulgaria	0.34
Canada	4.50
Czech Republic	0.88
Denmark	2.01
Estonia	0.10
France	12.86
Germany	17.31
Greece	1.05
Hungary	0.65
Iceland	0.047
Italy	7.66
Latvia	0.13
Lithuania	0.20
Luxembourg	0.15
Netherlands	3.44
Norway	1.72
Poland	2.44
Portugal	0.55
Romania	1.09
Slovakia	0.44
Slovenia	0.25
Spain	3.90
Turkey	1.50
United Kingdom	12.13
United States	22.54

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 963W, on urgent operational requirements, how many urgent statements of user

requirement were *(a)* raised, *(b)* endorsed, *(c)* not endorsed and *(d)* progressed as an urgent operational requirement in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each of the last four years; what records are kept of urgent statements of user requirement, and by whom; how many urgent statements of user requirement were (A) proposed and (B) raised and subsequently withdrawn in theatre of operations in each of the last four years; and whether withdrawn statements are recorded. [125152]

Mr. Ingram: It is not possible to give a comprehensive number of the total urgent statements of user requirement (USURs) raised or rejected as this is not recorded centrally. Suggestions are regularly put forward by troops on the ground and progressed up the chain of command, some of which will be progressed as USURs, but many can be met with equipment already available so there is no requirement to progress further. Those which do not progress beyond initial discussions and staffing are not routinely recorded.

It is rare that a USUR be rejected once it leaves theatre, as the level of staffing will normally have ironed out any issues before it is forwarded. There are occasions when staff at the Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) will return a USUR for further work prior to its approval, but this does not amount to a rejection, as in most cases it will subsequently be accepted.

Information on the number of USURs endorsed by the chain of command for Afghanistan is only held centrally from 2005-06. Information for both theatres for 2006-07 includes USURs endorsed up to 5 March 2007. The following table gives figures for the number of USURs endorsed by PJHQ, the last stage of approval in the chain of command prior to them being issued an urgent operational requirement (UOR) number and becoming a UOR. The figures therefore equate to the number progressed as UORs.

Financial year	*Number of USURs endorsed by the chain of command for Iraq to nearest 10*	*Number of USURs endorsed by the chain of command for Afghanistan to nearest 10*
2003-04	50	—
2004-05	80	—
2005-06	80	90
2006-07 to 2005 (March)	150	220

Requests by lower echelon commanders are staffed through the in-theatre chain of command, with both the unit and the brigade in theatre keeping relevant records.

In the land environment, if the requirement is for a new item of equipment or for more equipment, where insufficient stocks are held on the inventory for the current operations, the request is forwarded to the Divisional Equipment Capability (EC) Cell for further staffing. The Divisional EC Cell constructs an USUR in consultation with the originator to ensure that the exact requirement is captured and submits it to the Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ). Records of the USURs are held in the EC Cells in the appropriate theatre.

Royal Navy and Royal Air Force requirements are staffed up the appropriate chain of command, with USURs then submitted to PJHQ in a similar way. If PJHQ endorses the requirement, the USUR is passed to MOD Centre for action. Records of endorsed USURs are held in PJHQ and MOD Centre.

As stated above it is not possible to give a figure for numbers of USURs proposed, or raised and subsequently withdrawn.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what complaints he has received from *(a)* serving soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and *(b)* their families; [128375]

(2) how many complaints he has received from *(a)* serving soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and *(b)* their families on (i) access to food, (ii) army issue footwear, (iii) supply of appropriate clothing and (iv) longer separated service allowance payments; and what discussions he has had with commanding officers in Iraq and Afghanistan on those issues. [128376]

Derek Twigg *[holding answers 21 March 2007]:* Specific information relating to the number of complaints raised on availability of food, army issue of footwear, supply of appropriate equipment and longer separated service allowance payment, through the means available to personnel or their families is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

If, however, the user of a particular piece of clothing formally raises an issue because they believe that it has a defect then a formal defect report will be logged. Since the start of operations, there have been four defect reports for boots and one for a waistcoat for Operation Telic in Iraq. In addition, there have been three defect reports for body armour covers and one for a sleeping bag for Operation Herrick in Afghanistan. All defect reports were resolved.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many servicemen injured whilst serving in (a) Iraq and (b) Afghanistan who contracted MRSA whilst receiving treatment for their injuries in UK civilian hospitals have subsequently had limbs amputated as a result of the infection; and if he will make a statement. [129023]

(2) how many servicemen injured in (a) Iraq and (b) Afghanistan have contracted (i) a viral infection and (ii) MRSA whilst receiving treatment for their injuries in UK (A) civilian and (B) military hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [129030]

(3) how many servicemen injured serving in (a) Iraq and (b) Afghanistan who contracted viral infections whilst receiving treatment for their injuries in UK civilian hospitals have subsequently had limbs amputated as a result of the infection; and if he will make a statement. [129637]

Derek Twigg: If an injury sustained in theatre warrants the immediate removal of a limb, the operation will be conducted under field conditions. Service personnel injured while on operation in Iraq or Afghanistan who require further medical treatment are usually aero-medically evacuated to Selly Oak hospital in Birmingham. Once evacuated to the UK, the patient will undergo detailed assessment by the hospital clinical team and further medical treatment, if required, will be carried out. We are aware of no cases of service personnel contracting an infection while in

theatre, in transit, or as a military patient being treated in Birmingham that has subsequently led to a limb amputation.

University Hospital Birmingham (UHB) has robust procedures in place to minimise the risk of infection and counter its effects in both its civilian and military patients. UHB does collect overall infection rates, and in total for all patients, it has had 93 MRSA bacteraemia reports across the Queen Elizabeth and Selly Oak hospital sites from April 2006 to the end of February 2007. This equates to 0.09 per cent. of the around 100,000 (mostly civilian) in-patients and day cases treated in this time period and only 0.02 per cent. of the total 500,000 of all patients treated in this period. UHB's MRSA bacteraemia reports have reduced by 32 per cent. in the last two years.

Neither the UHB nor the Ministry of Defence holds a separate database or a record of military patients who have reported MRSA or other viral infections. Therefore, the precise number of military patients diagnosed with MRSA or viral infections in NHS hospitals is not available centrally. This information could be obtained only by searching through individual medical records with that person's permission, and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the extent of militia infiltration of the Iraqi police service; what assessment he has made of the risk this poses to UK troops on joint patrols; and if he will make a statement. [130226]

Mr. Ingram: The majority of Iraqi police are doing a very difficult job effectively and their capacity to maintain public order, investigate crimes and arrest suspects continues to grow. We and the Iraqis accept, however, that corruption and criminality in the police force remain a problem. Work continues with the Iraqi authorities to remove corrupt and inefficient officers and to ensure that such issues are addressed in the training that we provide, particularly on leadership. Ultimately, reform of policing must be Iraqi-led.

Coalition forces continually assess the risks to personnel, including when operating with the Iraqi police service.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what was involved in the practice of conditioning of Iraqi prisoners; and if he will make a statement; [130788]

(2) who authorised the practice of conditioning of Iraqi prisoners; when Ministers first became aware of the practice; and what action was taken in response. [130789]

Mr. Ingram: It would be inappropriate to comment on this matter while the court-martial in Bulford is ongoing.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units will be operating outside harmony guidelines as a result of the deployment to Iraq of Telic 10; and what the average tour gap number is for each unit. [131089]

Mr. Ingram: Harmony guidelines allow Army units 24 months between six-monthly operational tours. Details of those Army units that will be operating outside these guidelines, when deploying on TELIC 10, are as follows:

Unit	*Tour interval*
2 Royal Welsh	19 Months
1 Royal Horse Artillery	20 Months
Kings Royal Hussars	19 Months

Royal Air Force units operate differently to those of the Army. The RAF reports against harmony guidelines for formed unit tour intervals and against individual separated service guidelines for personnel. For RAF formed units the harmony guidelines state there should be 16 months between each four-month operational tour. RAF personnel rotate through the unit rather than remain with it throughout, therefore unit and personnel tour intervals are not necessarily the same. The following table illustrates the RAF formed units that will be operating outside harmony guidelines when deploying on TELIC 10:

Unit	*Tour Interval*
4 RAF Force Protection Wing HQ	12 months
1 Sqn RAF Field Regt	12 months
2 RAF Force Protection Wing HQ	12 months
34 Sqn RAF Field Regt	12 months

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors have caused the changes in the costs of operations in Iraq between 2006-07 and 2005-06. [131095]

Mr. Ingram: The net additional cost of operations in Iraq in 2005-06 was £957.6 million, compared to a projected total cost of £1,002 million for 2006-07 set out in the Spring Supplementary Estimate published on 20 February 2007, an increase of £44.4 million. This is mainly due to higher capital expenditure on urgent operational requirements and the introduction of the operational allowance for personnel serving in Iraq during 2006-07.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department plans to include in its estimates memorandum its planning assumptions for the cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; [131096]

(2) whether the Government plan to include the provisions for all operations in the main estimates. [131151]

Mr. Ingram: Provision for the costs of operations is not included in the main estimate 2007-08. Ministers have made clear to Parliament that the costs of operations are difficult to forecast in fast moving operational circumstances. The Department needs to ensure that the figures presented to Parliament are taut and realistic, and for this reason, the first request for resources for conflict prevention is made at supplementary estimates.

The Department does not intend including any planning assumptions for the cost of operations in the estimates memorandum.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Territorial Army *(a)* received commendations and *(b)* were decorated

for their bravery in action in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each of the last five years. [131631]

Derek Twigg: Details of the number of Territorial Army personnel receiving commendations and decorations for bravery (Gallantry Awards) in Iraq and Afghanistan in each of the last five years are shown as follows:

Iraq

Award/year	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Military Cross	—	—	1	1	—
Mention in Dispatches	—	—	2	1	2
Queens Commendation for Bravery	—	—	1	—	—
Queens Gallantry Medal	—	—	1	—	—
Total	0	0	5	2	2

Afghanistan

Award/year	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Military Cross	—	—	—	—	—
Mention in Dispatches	—	—	—	—	—
Queens Commendation for Bravery	—	—	2	—	—
Queens Gallantry Medal	—	—	—	—	—
Total	0	0	2	0	0

Iraq: Reconstruction

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the provincial reconstruction teams in Iraq. [130542]

Mr. Hoon: I have been asked to reply.

Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Iraq have made significant progress since they were established in 2006. By working with Provincial Governments to develop their ability to deliver essential services to Iraqi citizens, PRTs have helped extend the reach of the Iraqi Government in key provinces.

In partnership with the Iraqi Provincial Councils, the PRTs have co-ordinated reconstruction programmes in every province, to help ensure that a range of civilian and military and organisations are working to one Provincial Development Strategy.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the remit is of the provincial reconstruction teams in Iraq. [130543]

Mr. Hoon: I have been asked to reply.

The remit of provincial reconstruction teams in Iraq is to co-ordinate international support for provincial development including civil development and reconstruction assistance; development of the capacity of the Provincial Government; and to help develop the rule of law and infrastructure.

Iraq: Territorial Waters

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy and marine patrol boats are operating in Iraqi waters. [130866]

Mr. Ingram: As at 28 March 2007 there was one Royal Navy vessel and no UK marine patrol boats operating in Iraqi waters.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what helicopter support is available to support British Marines operating in Iraqi waters as part of operations conducted in pursuance of UN Security Council Resolution 1723. [130868]

Mr. Ingram: It is not possible to provide the number of helicopters available to support British Marines operating in Iraqi waters as to do so would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces. There are sufficient numbers of helicopters in theatre, all of which may be deployed in their specific role in support of marine operations if necessary. British forces are also able to call on the support of coalition assets as part of Multi-National Force Iraq if required.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which other NATO countries are contributing to the patrolling of Iraqi waters in addition to British forces; and who has overall command. [130869]

Des Browne: The patrolling of Iraqi territorial waters is not a NATO task. Under UNSCR 1723, the United States, as lead nation of the Multi-National Force—Iraq, has responsibility for the patrolling of Iraqi territorial waters. The UK, the only other member of NATO, and Australia provide support to this task.

Royal Navy: GPS

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what global positioning system and satellite tracking systems are on board Royal Navy rigid inflatable patrol boats. [130867]

Mr. Ingram: Royal Navy rigid inflatable patrol boats carried by Type 22 and Type 23 frigates are fitted with a command, control and navigation system known as XERES.

Lynx Helicopter

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what versions of the Lynx helicopter are operated in Iraq; what the acquisition cost was of each aircraft; and what the average total operating cost is per hour of the Lynx helicopters deployed in Iraq. [130026]

Mr. Ingram: A number of Lynx Mk 7 aircraft are currently operated in Iraq.

These aircraft were initially procured between 1979 and 1981 and have subsequently been extensively modified and enhanced. The Net Book Value on 12 December 2006 for each of these aircraft was about £4.7 million.

The total operating cost per hour for Lynx Mk 7 is approximately £23,000. This cost includes both fixed and marginal costs incurred in using the aircraft, comprising servicing costs, fuel costs, crew capitation and training costs, support costs and charges for capital and depreciation.

Additional costs are incurred as a result of the operational use and particular climatic conditions experienced in theatre. These costs cover additional wear and tear, additional spares and additional equipment and are paid for by the Conflict Prevention Fund. A total of £11 million has been claimed against the Conflict Prevention Fund in financial year 2006-07 for additional operating and capital costs for Lynx Mk 7s operating in Iraq.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from what budget funding for the cross-service use of helicopters is taken; and if he will make a statement. [130794]

Mr. Ingram: Joint Helicopter Command (JHC) was formed in 1999 with the specific purpose of providing integrated Battlefield Helicopter and Air Assault capability from all three Services. Funding for JHC is provided from the Defence budget, through Land Command.

Other helicopters operated by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force may also be called upon for cross-service support. Use by a single service remains the resource responsibility of that service alone.

The net additional cost of military operations are met from the Treasury Reserve.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which helicopters are being used by each of the services in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; on what operations they have been deployed; and if he will make a statement. [130795]

Mr. Ingram: All helicopter assets are provided by the Joint Helicopter Command, which is a tri-service organisation. The following table shows the helicopter types deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Operational theatre	*Type of helicopter*	*Operated by*
Iraq	Merlin Mk 3	Royal Air Force
	Sea King Mk 4	Royal Navy
	Lynx	Army Air Corps and Royal Marines
	Puma	Royal Air Force
Afghanistan	CH47	Royal Air Force
	AH64	Army Air Corps
	Lynx	Army Air Corps

These are used for a range of operational tasks in support of UK operations but for reasons of operational security I will not go into detail on the operations that each helicopter undertakes.

MOD Police

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms of reference are for the review of the Ministry of Defence Police; when the review is expected to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [102316]

Derek Twigg: I apologise for the delay in answering this question.

A copy of the terms of reference for a review by the Defence Management Consultancy Service (DMCS), of the optimal degree of integration of the Ministry of Defence Police and Ministry of Defence Guard Service, has been placed in the Library of the House.

The Ministry of Defence and Guarding Agency has recently received a draft report from the DMCS which makes recommendations on the way ahead. This is currently being checked for factual accuracy and a copy of the final report will be placed in the Library shortly.

Navy: Deployment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1359W, on Navy: deployment, how much *(a)* revenue and *(b)* capital spending was made on the Royal Yacht in each of the last five years; and what spending is forecast for future years. [131325]

Mr. Ingram: None. The former Royal Yacht was sold to the Former Royal Yacht Britannia Trust in April 1998. The trust has complete control and financial responsibility for display and upkeep.

Navy: Recruitment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recruits the Royal Navy seeks to attract to the *(a)* full-time regular service and *(b)* reserve service in (i) officer and (ii) non-officer capacity. [129732]

Derek Twigg: Recruiting targets vary from year to year, depending on the requirement. For recruiting year 2007-08 the Royal Navy is seeking to attract:

	Number of recruits
Full-time Regular Service	[1]4,077
RN Officer	373
RM Officer	58
Rating	2,381
RM Other Ranks	1,265
Reserve Service	1,218
RNR Officers	178
RMR Officer	10
RNR Ratings	530
RMR Other Ranks (Recruits)	500

[1] Including Royal Marines

Navy: Warships

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether there are plans to enlarge the

capability of the Royal Navy's fleet of assault ships; and if he will make a statement on the future of the fleet; [129736]

(2) whether there are plans to enlarge the capability of the Royal Navy's fleet of Type 22 Frigates; and if he will make a statement on the future of the fleet; [129737]

(3) whether there are plans to enlarge the capability of the Royal Navy's fleet of Type 42 Destroyers; and if he will make a statement on the future of the fleet; [129741]

(4) whether there are plans to enlarge the capability of the UK's aircraft carrier fleet; and if he will make a statement on the future of the UK fleet. [129742]

Mr. Ingram: We are improving the capability of the fleet with the largest warship building programme this country has seen for many years. We have introduced new amphibious assault and support ships that are vastly more capable than the ships they replaced. We are bringing into service the Type 45 Destroyers, which are the most capable air-defence destroyers ever built for the Royal Navy. We plan to replace the present fleet of aircraft carriers with the future aircraft carriers, which will be the largest warships ever to see service with the Royal Navy. The Type 22 Frigates have many years of service ahead of them, and are planned to be replaced in due course by the new and more capable Future Surface Combatant.

RAF Feltwell

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Air Force personnel are based at RAF Feltwell. [131061]

Derek Twigg: There are no RAF personnel based at RAF Feltwell, which is a base made available to the United States Visiting Force.

RAF Menwith Hill

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he was informed that the US planned to use its Space Based Infra Red System at Menwith Hill to provide critical data for national missile defence systems; and if he will make a statement; [130524]

(2) when he was first informed that data from Menwith Hill for the US Space Based Infra Red System was being used in relation to active defence systems. [130537]

Des Browne: The UK has received no request from the US to use RAF Menwith Hill for missile defence-related activities. Any such use would first require UK approval.

Royal Ordnance Factories: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what records are held on the number of employees *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured while working at the Royal Ordnance Factory in Chorley since the beginning of production at the site. [130803]

Mr. Ingram: None. When BAE Systems purchased the Chorley site in 1987, all records were handed over to the company. The MOD does not keep a register of accidents that occur in private organisations.

Service Personnel

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 109W, on service personnel, what the five major issues on the Service Families Task Force Tri-Service Families Action Plan are. [131088]

Derek Twigg: Child care; communication; education (admissions, notice and special educational needs); health (access to NHS dentists, waiting lists); housing (upgrading programme, affordability, availability, customer care) and support for families in Greater London. The latter issue was added to the Families Action Plan at the quarterly meeting of the Families Working Group on 9 January 2007.

Territorial Army: Desertion

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many absent without leave cases there were in the Territorial Army in each year since 1997. [130590]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* Members of the Territorial Army can only be declared as absent without leave from duty when they are mobilised or Full Time Reserve Service. In these circumstances, the regulations for UK Regular Service apply. There have been six members of the Territorial Army who have been charged with 10 counts of being absent without leave since 1997.

Type 22 Frigates

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has made a feasibility study of *(a)* replacing and *(b)* updating the intelligence gathering capabilities provided by the four Batch 3 Type 22 frigates. [128583]

Mr. Ingram: We continue to consider how communication electronic support measures on Royal Navy warships should be sustained under project SHAMAN. Options under consideration in the Assessment Phase include upgrade to, as well as replacement of, existing equipment.

Warships: Gulf

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the most recent decision was taken to deploy additional Royal Navy vessels to the Gulf. [126229]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* The Royal Navy is mandated to provide two frigates or destroyers and one auxiliary oil tanker to the Gulf and wider region.

This requirement is kept under regular review, and force levels are adjusted as required. Additional RN units have been deployed to the Gulf and the wider

region at various stages over the last six months, as a result of these reviews. Currently these additional units consist of two mine countermeasure vessels, one landing ship logistics, one auxiliary fleet support (with two airborne surveillance and area control Sea Kings embarked) and three Merlin Helicopters based at Seeb, Oman.

Additionally, the Royal Navy training team have been deployed since 2003, tasked with training Iraqi forces until further notice.

World War II: Bombs

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of unexploded devices from World War II remaining in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Pembrokeshire; and what assessment he has made of the risks posed to members of the public. [127443]

Derek Twigg: Numerous reports of unexploded bombs (UXB) were investigated during and shortly after WWII; in most cases the UXB were located and cleared by military bomb disposal teams. There were, however, instances where a device could not be found. In these instances, it was concluded the UXB had either travelled underground to a depth and position where it could not be reached, it had broken up on impact, leaving only fragments, or the report was mistaken and no UXB existed. It was decided that such UXB sites did not represent an immediate danger to the public, and they were added to the Abandoned Bomb Register. These sites would only be further investigated if new evidence arose or a device was unearthed. There are 26 possible UXB sites on the Abandoned Bomb Register for Wales; none of these is in Pembrokeshire.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Alternative Energy

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date in January 2007 the payments ceiling for grant allocations for domestic renewable energy installations for that month was reached. [121045]

Margaret Hodge: The introduction of monthly allocations to the household stream has provided us with the opportunity to manage the flow of funds with the aim of providing grants for householders through to June 2008, by which time some of our wider measures to promote microgeneration should be taking hold.

Since the cap was introduced in December 2006, householders have been able to apply for a share of the £0.5 million pot that has been made available on a monthly basis. In January 2007, these funds were fully committed to successful household applicants on 12 January 2007.

It is important to note that in the 2007 Budget, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream is to be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be re-shaped.

Animal Experiments: Cosmetics

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to extend the ban on the use of animal experimentation for the development of cosmetics to include the marketing of products produced abroad after animal experimentation. [130710]

Mr. McCartney: The Cosmetic Products (Safety) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/2152) implement the 7th amendment to the EU Council directive on the safety of cosmetic products.

Among other things the 7th amendment introduces a ban on the testing of finished cosmetic products and their ingredients by 2005.

It also introduces a two-stage marketing ban. Until 2009 the ban is operative only if an alternative to an animal test exists. From 2009 (with an exception until 2013 for three tests) the ban becomes fully operative irrespective of whether alternatives have been developed and irrespective of where in the world the product is manufactured.

Anti-dumping: EC Action

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many anti-dumping investigations the EU carried out in each year since 1977; and how many investigations are in progress. [122226]

Mr. McCartney: According to the European Commission, on 31 January 2007, there were 82 anti-dumping investigations in progress comprising review investigations and new investigations. Details of all cases investigated by the European Commission each year since 1996 are available in annual reports made to the European Parliament. These may be accessed through the following link to the European Commission's website:

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/respectrules/anti_dumping/legis/index_en.htm

In addition a list, updated weekly, of all cases investigated or under investigation since 1996 is available through the following web link:

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/respectrules/anti_dumping/stats.htm

According to the Commission, details of all cases investigated prior to 1996 can be found in a book entitled "Anti-Dumping and Other Trade Protection Laws of the EC" (fourth edition) published by Brussels law firm Van Bael and Bellis.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what anti-dumping duties were applied by the EU in each year since 1977; to which countries they were applied; what duties are being applied; and to which countries they are being applied. [122227]

Mr. McCartney: Details of all cases investigated by the European Commission each year since 1996, including the rates of anti-dumping duty imposed and the countries to which the duty applies, are available in annual reports made to the European Parliament. These may be accessed through the following link to the European Commission's website:

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/respectrules/anti_dumping/legis/index_en.htm

In addition a list, updated weekly, of all cases investigated or under investigation since 1996 is available through the following web link:

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/respectrules/anti_dumping/stats.htm

According to the Commission, details of all cases investigated prior to 1996 can be found in a book entitled "Anti-Dumping and Other Trade Protection Laws of the EC" (fourth edition) published by Brussels law firm Van Bael and Bellis.

Competition Commission

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Government are legally bound to enact a recommendation made by the Competition Commission. [128863]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 20 March 2007]*: For most of the cases it considers, the Competition Commission does not need to make recommendations to the Government. It will simply use its statutory powers to make decisions and enforce necessary remedies.

It is possible that in the course of its work, the Competition Commission may make recommendations to Government where cases raise issues affecting Government policy or the law. There is no statutory provision requiring the Government to implement any such recommendations, though the Government may be expected to give due regard to such recommendations.

In cases where the Secretary of State uses his powers under the Enterprise Act 2002 to intervene on grounds of public interest and this results in a case being referred to the Competition Commission, the Enterprise Act provides that the Secretary of State must accept the Competition Commission's decisions on the competition issues raised by the case. In addition, in deciding whether or not to make an adverse public interest finding, he will have regard to the Competition Commission's conclusions on the public interest issues.

Control of Misleading Advertisements Regulations

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many successful prosecutions there were of companies in breach of the Control of Misleading Advertisements Regulations 1988 in each of the last five years; and in each case what breach took place. [130627]

Mr. McCartney: Information regarding prosecutions and breaches of the Control of Misleading Advertisements Regulations 1988 can be found on the Consumer Regulations website, provided by the Office of Fair Trading, at www.crw.gov.uk This records five cases since 2003, all of which were dealt with through undertakings by the companies and relevant individuals rather than by prosecutions.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what meetings took place between Ministers in his Department and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date was of each such meeting. [131038]

Mr. Darling: Ministers meet many outside interest groups and attend many functions relating to Government business, and as part of the process of policy development. To provide the detailed information requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people in his Department participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [131437]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of employees who have left the Department under exit schemes is shown in the following table:

	Voluntary	*Involuntary*
1998-99	0	0
1999-2000	0	0
2000-01	0	5
2001-02	0	0
2002-03	0	0
2003-04	12	4
2004-05	509	0
2005-06	114	23
2006-07	175	0

Figures prior to 1998-99 are not available.

The Department will always try to deal with staff surpluses by means other than redundancy. If redundancies become unavoidable, the Department will endeavour to reduce staff by voluntary rather than involuntary means wherever possible. The Department is currently restructuring and is administering a voluntary exit scheme to deal with emerging surpluses. The full extent of voluntary and involuntary exits is not yet available.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people in his Department who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [131559]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of staff who received payments in the requested bands were as follows:

	0-25,000	25,001-50,000	50,001-75,000	75,001-100,000	£ 100,000+
Voluntary					
2004-05	228	192	75	7	7
2005-06	45	28	21	9	11
2006-07	40	40	44	23	28
Involuntary					
2005-06	8	4	7	1	3

Payments include pension lump sums as well as compensation awards. The information for earlier years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department will always try to deal with staff surpluses by means other than redundancy. If redundancies become unavoidable, the Department will endeavour to reduce staff by voluntary rather than involuntary means wherever possible. The Department is currently restructuring and is administering a voluntary exit scheme to deal with emerging surpluses. The full extent of voluntary and involuntary exit costs is not yet available.

Departments: Reorganisation

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to reorganise the structure of his Department. [128990]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have no current plans to reorganise the structure of the Department. Naturally, we keep our internal organisation and resources under regular review, to ensure that they match our priorities and objectives.

Digital Switchover

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the digital switchover on energy use. [129486]

Margaret Hodge: Digital switchover is expected to have an impact on both transmitter power usage and consumer power usage.

Digital transmission is more efficient than analogue in terms of power usage. Replacing the analogue terrestrial transmission network with a nationwide digital terrestrial television network will lead to a significant net reduction in energy usage by the transmission networks, estimated to be 186 GWh per year.

Consumer power usage is expected to rise as a result of switchover, primarily because of the rapid increase in the take-up of set-top boxes, particularly for second sets, which would not otherwise be converted until replaced. The predicted level of the increase is dependent on a number of assumptions about the usage and design of equipment in the market at the time of switchover. DCMS, DTI and Defra economists have estimated that the increase in consumer energy use of completing digital switchover in 2012 is likely to be between 966GWh and 2,816GWh per annum above that predicted for market take-up in the absence of a set switchover timetable. The central estimate for the total impact of switchover is a net increase of 1,705GWh per year. This is equivalent to a 0.34 per cent. increase in domestic electricity consumption. This would be reduced if industry can be encouraged to make more energy-efficient products. Work on this is being taken forward as part of the DTI usability action plan.

Further details are contained in the "Regulatory and Environmental Impact Assessment: The timing of digital switchover", published on 16 September 2005. This was placed in the Library of the House of Commons at the time of publication, and is also available at

http://www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk/consultations/con_ria_timingods.html.

EC Trade

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the trend has been in the UK's trade balance with the rest of the EU in the last five years. [131011]

Mr. McCartney: The latest estimates of the balance of trade in goods and services with the EU25, including initial figures for 2006, are shown (at current prices) in the following table:

	£ billion
2002	-24.3
2003	-28.3
2004	-30.5
2005	-37.4
2006	-37.2

Source:
ONS

Electricity: Meters

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he plans the Government's trials of smart meters to commence. [130623]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* The trials will commence in the near future, once contract negotiations with participating companies are completed.

Employment: Discrimination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many recent representations he has received about age discrimination in the insurance industry. [130692]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have received representations from the Employers Forum on Age, the Association of British Insurers and Group Risk Development about insured benefits on three occasions, in September and November 2006 and in February 2007.

Energy: Bills

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the average domestic *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity bill in England was in each year from 1996-97 to 2006-07; and what estimate his Department has made for 2007-08. [130546]

Malcolm Wicks: The average domestic electricity[1] and gas bills for England and Wales are shown as follows and are published in Quarterly Energy Prices. The data presented are for standard credit customers in cash terms, it has not been adjusted for inflation.

[1] The bills for standard electricity do not include customers that are on economy 7 tariffs.

		£
	Electricity bill	*Gas bill*
1996	295	330
1997	283	328
1998	266	315
1999	260	304
2000	253	295
2001	246	293
2002	244	310
2003	245	320
2004	251	333
2005	281	386
2006	335	474

Domestic gas and electricity price forecasts are not published by DTI. Provisional 2007 bills will be published on 27 September 2007.

Insolvency: Directors

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the annual cost was of action by the Insolvency Service to investigate and pursue cases of director disqualification under the Insolvency Acts in each of the last three years. [131138]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since 1 April 2003, the Insolvency Service's activities in the investigation and enforcement area have been funded by a DTI programme budget and from the recovery of costs awarded against disqualified directors as follows:

	£000
2003-04	29,279
2004-05	29,314
2005-06	33,741

These figures can be found in the Insolvency Service's published accounts that are laid in Parliament annually in July. The 2006-07 figure is not yet available but will be published in July 2007.

The cost of investigation and enforcement includes not only the cost of directors disqualification but also the reporting by official receivers of possible criminal offences and from 1 April 2004, work on Bankruptcy Restrictions Orders and Undertakings.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the decision by the Insolvency Service not to prosecute certain cases of potential director disqualification due to lack of resources; and if he will make a statement. [131140]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In order to ensure the best use of available resources, the most serious potential disqualification cases are prioritised using a rigorous categorisation system. A total of 1,200 directors were disqualified in the year to 31 March 2007 compared to 1,173 disqualified in the year to 31 March 2006.

IT: Labour Market

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many jobs in the IT industry have moved from the UK to other countries in the last 10 years; and what assessment he has made of the impact on the number of IT jobs in the UK in the future. [129674]

Margaret Hodge: The Department does not hold statistics on how many jobs in the IT sector have moved from the UK to other countries in the last 10 years.

A report commissioned by the DTI from Ovum and published in June last year (available on the DTI website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file32496.pdf) predicted that the number of people employed by the software and IT services industry in the UK could fall by 6 per cent. (from 249,000 to 233,500) in the three years to the end of 2008 as a possible consequence of globalisation.

However, in recent years the ICT sector has been one of the fastest growing UK employers and its prospects continue to look good. The UK is a leading software producer in Western Europe and, with a long-established reputation for excellence, attracts major multinationals from across the ICT and software sectors worldwide. The UK ICT sector has unique strengths including in the development of innovative software and its world-class capability in the management of complex programmes and in problem-solving and creative thinking.

According to statistics published by the Office for National Statistics, gross value added (at current prices) of the UK computer and related services sector increased from £7.7 billion to £35.6 billion between 1995 and 2005. It also continues to be an export success story, with exports of computer services increasing from £0.7 billion to £4.6 billion between 1995 and 2005, and the UK trade surplus in computer services rising from £0.4 billion to £2.9 billion over the same period (UK Balance of Payment, 2006 Edition).

However, as markets become increasingly integrated with more international competition (and related opportunities), UK companies need to operate in a way that maximises their competitive advantage. For some, this has meant re-locating some operations to other countries, but the UK is also a major beneficiary of offshoring by overseas companies—we are the second largest global recipient of foreign direct investment.

This increasing movement of labour is the reality of a globalised economy and the Government's role in it is to create the conditions to ensure that the UK remains a competitive place to do business. This includes providing an environment which enables business to move up the value chain where it can.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry at what point in February 2007 the allocations ceiling for that month was reached for household installations under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. [121046]

Margaret Hodge: The introduction of monthly allocations to the household stream has provided us with the opportunity to manage the flow of funds with the aim of providing grants for householders through to June 2008, by which time some of our wider measures to promote microgeneration should be taking hold.

Since the cap was introduced in December 2006, householders have been able to apply for a share of the £0.5 million pot that has been made available on a monthly basis. In February 2007, these funds were fully committed to successful household applicants on 1 February 2007.

It is important to note that in the 2007 Budget, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream is to be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be re-shaped.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the impact of monthly grant capping under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme on household demand for micro renewables. [127040]

Malcolm Wicks: The introduction of monthly allocations to the household stream has provided us with the opportunity to manage the flow of funds with the aim of providing grants for householders through to June 2008, by which time some of our wider measures to promote microgeneration should be taking hold.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many and what value of household grants were applied for under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in each month from May 2006 to February 2007. [128722]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows.

	Number of applicants	*Indicative grants (£)*
May 2006	594	491,185.29
June 2006	262	299,377.04
July 2006	574	987,363.67
August 2006	563	882,173.93
September 2006	428	825,648.50
October 2006	1,124	1,376,536.00
November 2006	1,116	1,362,611.18
December 2006	456	633,418.23
January 2007	381	624,682.77
February 2007	326	623,981.72

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been paid through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in each month *(a)* for domestic household conversions, *(b)* for schools and other public sector buildings and *(c)* for commercial private sector buildings. [128822]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is in the following table.

£

Month	*Households*	*Public sector*	*Private sector*
May 2006	—	—	—
July 2006	1,600	—	—
July 2006	4,000	—	—
August 2006	82,205.44	—	—
September 2006	81,379.50	—	—
October 2006	243,359.07	—	—
November 2006	298,575.68	1,952.38	—
December 2006	302,001.19	—	—
January 2007	390,058.92	—	—
February 2007	551,966.42	18,921.00	—

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many households received Low Carbon Buildings Programme grants under the new capping system in *(a)* January 2007, *(b)* February 2007 and *(c)* March 2007; and if he will take steps to remove the monthly cap from April 2007. [129500]

Malcolm Wicks: The purpose of the cap was to ensure the resources did not run out before June 2008. The following table shows the number of households to receive Low Carbon Buildings Programme grants by month this year.

	Number of households
January 2007	264
February 2007	188
March 2007	189

In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream is to be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that the scheme can be re-shaped.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many households received grants under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in each month since its launch; and how many and what

value of such grants were given to *(a)* solar photovoltaics, *(b)* small hydro, *(c)* wind turbines, *(d)* solar thermal hot water, *(e)* ground/water/air source heat pumps, *(f)* bio-energy, *(g)* renewable CHP, *(h)* micro CHP and *(i)* fuel cells. [130054]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 29 March 2007]*: The information requested is as follows.

Month	*Technology*	*Number of grants*	*Value of grants (£)*
May 2006	Solar PV	4	37,309.94
	Small hydro	0	0
	Wind Turbines	6	24,000.00
	Solar Thermal Hot Water	76	30,000.00
	Ground Source Heat Pump	14	16,800.00
	Bio-energy	7	10,500.00
	Renewable CHP	0	0
	Micro CHP	0	0
	Fuel Cells	0	0
Total	—	107	118,609.94
June 2006	Solar PV	26	186,676.97
	Small hydro	0	0
	Wind turbine	20	84,414.00
	Solar Thermal Hot Water	209	82,400.00
	Ground Source Heat Pump	31	37,200.00
	Bio-energy	7	10,118.40
	Renewable CHP	0	0
	Micro CHP	0	0
	Fuel Cells	0	0
Total	—	293	400,809.37
July 2006	Solar PV	58	448,526.56
	Small hydro	1	1,500.00
	Wind turbine	33	137,253.40
	Solar Thermal Hot Water	321	127,750.00
	Ground Source Heat Pump	55	66,000.00
	Bio-energy	11	15,760.80
	Renewable CHP	0	0
	Micro CHP	0	0
	Fuel Cells	0	0
Total	—	479	796,790.76
August 2006	Solar PV	52	342,058.41
	Small hydro	2	7,800.00
	Wind Turbine	19	85,449.50
	Solar Thermal Hot Water	282	112,766.60
	Ground Source Heat Pump	38	45,443.10
	Bio-energy	16	23,834.28
	Renewable CHP	0	0
	Micro CHP	0	0
	Fuel Cells	0	0
Total	—	409	617,351.89
September 2006	Solar PV	59	435,256.10
	Small hydro	0	0
	Wind Turbine	30	127,240.40
	Solar Thermal Hot Water	214	85,590.10
	Ground Source Heat Pump	24	28,800.00
	Bio-energy	13	16,466.00
	Renewable CHP	0	0
	Micro CHP	0	0
	Fuel Cells	0	0
Total	—	340	693,352.60
October 2006	Solar PV	91	700,030.30
	Small hydro	0	0
	Wind turbine	522	356,084.18
	Solar Thermal Hot Water	315	125,600.45
	Ground Source Heat Pump	22	26,250.00
	Bio-energy	17	19,328.19
	Renewable CHP	0	0
	Micro CHP	0	0
	Fuel Cells	0	0
Total	—	967	1,227,293.12
November 2006	Solar PV	80	608,877.77
	Small hydro	0	0
	Wind turbine	551	427,735.00
	Solar Thermal Hot Water	298	119,160.00
	Ground Source Heat Pump	36	43,200.00
	Bio-energy	21	28,412.96
	Renewable CHP	0	0
	Micro CHP	0	0
	Fuel Cells	0	0
Total	—	986	1,227,385.73
December 2006	Solar PV	38	250,074.57
	Small hydro	1	5,000.00
	Wind turbine	149	151,765.79
	Solar Thermal Hot Water	102	40,800.00
	Ground Source Heat Pump	17	20,400.00
	Bio-energy	17	22,853.41
	Renewable CHP	0	0
	Micro CHP	0	0
	Fuel Cells	0	0
Total	—	324	490,893.77

Month	Technology	Number of grants	Value of grants (£)
January 2007	Solar PV	35	239,218.45
	Small hydro	0	0
	Wind turbine	89	188,149.47
	Solar Thermal Hot Water	113	45,200.00
	Ground Source Heat Pump	13	15,600.00
	Bio-energy	4	5,100.00
	Renewable CHP	0	0
	Micro CHP	0	0
	Fuel Cells	0	0
Total	—	254	493,267.92
February 2007	Solar PV	43	343,557.83
	Small hydro	0	0
	Wind turbine	38	63,586.39
	Solar Thermal Hot Water	89	35,600.00
	Ground Source Heat Pump	10	11,843.10
	Bio-energy	7	10,112.40
	Renewable CHP	0	0
	Micro CHP	0	0
	Fuel Cells	0	0
Total	—	187	464,699.72
March 2007	Solar PV	62	456,507.89
	Small hydro	0	0
	Wind turbine	31	127,427.00
	Solar Thermal Hot Water	79	31,600.00
	Ground Source Heat Pump	11	13,050.00
	Bio-energy	6	8,100.00
	Renewable CHP	0	0
	Micro CHP	0	0
	Fuel Cells	0	0
Total	—	189	636,684.89

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much funding will be allocated to the Low Carbon Buildings Programme domestic grants in *(a)* April and *(b)* May 2007; and if he will make a statement. [130342]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Budget 2007, the Chancellor announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme through to June 2008, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

We are discussing in detail the restructuring of the scheme with industry to ensure we can make the best use of the additional funds. Taking into account the work required to re-shape the scheme, we have taken the necessary step to suspend the scheme for the monthly allocation in April, with a view to restarting the household stream of the programme in May 2007.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how people will be able to apply for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme following the scheme's restructuring. [130514]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* In the Budget, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream will be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be re-shaped.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for what reason the Low Carbon Buildings Programme grants regime has been suspended; and if he will make a statement. [130625]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Budget 2007, the Chancellor announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme through to June 2008, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

We are discussing in detail the restructuring of the scheme with industry to ensure we can make the best use of the additional funds. Taking into account the work required to re-shape the scheme, we have taken the necessary step to suspend the scheme for the monthly allocation in April, with a view to restarting the household stream of the programme in May 2007.

Mr. Valzey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assistance will be made available for households installing small scale renewable technologies during the restructuring of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. [130408]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Budget 2007, the Chancellor announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme through to June 2008, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

We are discussing in detail the restructuring of the scheme with industry to ensure we can make the best use of the additional funds. Taking into account the work required to re-shape the scheme, we have taken the necessary step to suspend the scheme for the monthly allocation in April, with a view to restarting the household stream of the programme in May 2007.

Householders may temporarily be affected during the period of the suspension. However, it is important to note that of the £7.1 million allocated to household projects to date, £4.5 million remains in the pipeline of projects still to be completed.

Postal Services

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will allow sub-postmasters to offer Paypoint facilities with a view to increasing foot traffic. [130811]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no restrictions on sub-postmasters having a paypoint terminal on the retail side of their premises provided the terminal is not used for products and services offered on the Post Office side of the business.

Postal Services: Competition

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to lift restrictions on sub-postmasters offering competing services. [130810]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have no role in determining the terms and restrictions applying to sub-postmasters through their contract with Post Office Ltd.

Postal Services: Regulation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the successor to Postwatch will work effectively at a regional level. [129620]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The Department is working very closely with Postwatch, Energywatch, and the National Consumer Council to ensure that the practical implementation of the measures in the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Bill meet the detailed requirements of the different sectors. Serious consideration of how best to provide for a regional dimension for the way the new National Consumer Council represents consumer views is part of that ongoing work.

Public Bodies: Reorganisation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the potential locations for the headquarters of the merged Postwatch, Energywatch and National Consumer Council. [129621]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The Department has benefited from constructive and detailed input from the National Consumer Council, Energywatch and Postwatch on the considerations to be borne in mind when making a decision on the location of the headquarters for the new National Consumer Council. The final decision will be taken as soon as is practicable, having regard to the range of relevant issues.

Radio Frequencies: Licensing

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what undertakings were made by the Government to bidders in the Third Generation mobile telecommunications licence auction on the refarming of 2G spectrum for 3G use. [127675]

Margaret Hodge: The Government made no undertakings to bidders in the 3G auction on the refarming of 2G spectrum for 3G use. However, set out in para 3.4.1.3 of the Information Memorandum issued at the time by N. Rothschild and Sons on behalf of the Government is an account of how the Government expected to approach the question of refarming in the light of decisions that were expected to be made in due course within the EU. This Information Memorandum is available at:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/archive/spectrumauctions/3gindex.htm

and a copy is available in the Library of the House.

Renewable Energy Grants

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many and what value of grants were made to domestic households in England for renewable energy in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2004, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2006; and what the projected amount is of grants to be made in 2007-08. [128786]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested is as follows:

	Number of grants	*Value of grants*
2002	74	489,912.58
2003	1,428	1,752,333.20
2004	3,181	3,274,411.69
2005	2,469	3,948,803.88
2006	672	2,387,093.91

There are no figures available for 2007-08, as we do not publish forward projections.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry at what date in *(a)* January and *(b)* February the allocation for grants in each month for renewable energy installations was exhausted; and whether he is considering changes to the scheme to avoid the adverse consequences of such exhaustions of allocations. [123837]

Malcolm Wicks: The introduction of monthly allocations to the household stream has provided us with the opportunity to manage the flow of funds with the aim of providing grants for householders through to June 2008, by which time some of our wider measures to promote microgeneration should be taking hold.

Since the cap was introduced in December 3006, householders have been able to apply for a share of the £0.5 million pot that is being made available on a monthly basis. In January 2007, these funds were fully committed to successful household applicants on 12 January 2007. In February 2007, these funds were fully committed to successful household applicants on 1 February 2007.

It is important to note that in the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream is to be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be re-shaped.

Satellites

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has held discussions with the East of England Development Agency on its proposal to spend £12 million on a space satellite. [130624]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* My officials in the British National Space Centre (BNSC) have worked with the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), the South East of England Development Agency (SEEDA) and the London Development Agency (LDA) to fund the UK subscription in support of the Inmarsat-led I-XL (Inmarsat eXtended L-band) bid to the European Space Agency (ESA) Alphasat Programme.

Seals: EC Action

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make it his policy to ban the importation of *(a)* harp seal, *(b)* hooded seal and *(c)* other seal products into the UK; and if he will make a statement. [131101]

Mr. McCartney: I made an announcement by ministerial statement on this issue on 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 43WS.

Severn Barrage

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what consideration he has given to commissioning an appraisal of the possible benefits and environmental risks associated with the building of a Severn barrage; and if he will make a statement. [131173]

Malcolm Wicks: A major study is currently under way that will help us to better understand how to make best use of the potential tidal resource in UK waters. The study is led by the Sustainable Development Commission working together with the DTI, the Welsh Assembly Government, the South West Regional Development Agency and other key interested parties.

The study is looking at the issues arising on the tidal resource, including consideration of the potential of the Severn Estuary. A final report by the Sustainable Development Commission will consider the various aspects of a Severn barrage from a sustainable development perspective and is expected by early summer.

Further information can be found at:

www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/tidal.html

Small Businesses

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many workers are excluded from the provisions of statutory recognition procedures as a result of *(a)* the 21-worker threshold and *(b)* employment status. [129004]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The statutory recognition procedure applies to GB employers who, together with their associated employers, employ 21 or more workers. It is not possible to estimate precisely how many workers are employed in organisations which fall under this threshold. However, at the start of 2005, the estimated number of employees working in UK enterprises with 19 or fewer employees was 4,764,000. There are no estimates of the number of workers who are excluded from the statutory procedure because of their employment status. However, because the definition of "worker" used for the purpose of the statutory procedure is broad, the number is likely to be relatively low.

Solar Power: Grants

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the potential impact on demand for household solar photo voltaics (PV) of the decision to reduce the domestic solar PV grant by £1,000 per kWp from 2 April. [128723]

Malcolm Wicks: When the Low Carbon Buildings Programme was launched in April 2006, we always intended to review grant levels at the end of the first year. After discussions with industry, it was decided that the level of support for solar PV should be reduced in April 2007, from a maximum of £3,000 per kWp installed to a maximum of £2,000 per kWp installed.

This measure, among others, will help us to make funds available to householders until June 2008 when some of our wider measures to support microgeneration should be taking hold.

It is important to note that in the Budget 2007, the Chancellor announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the programme, taking the total available to householders to more than £18 million. We are discussing in detail the restructuring of the scheme with industry to ensure we can make the best use of the additional funds, and to address the operational difficulties that have been encountered over recent months. Taking into account the work required to re-shape the scheme, we have taken the necessary step to suspend the scheme for the monthly allocation in April, with a view to restarting the household stream of the programme in May 2007.

Telecommunications: Fees and Charges

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to prevent *(a)* BT and *(b)* other telecommunication companies levying additional charges on customers who pay other than by monthly plan or direct debit. [124825]

Margaret Hodge: While this is a commercial matter, my understanding is that for a number of years, BT has applied a price differential between customers who pay their accounts by direct debit and those who pay by other means. This reflects the increased processing and debt management costs associated with payments not made by direct debit. Such differentials are common practice among communications providers and utility service providers.

From 1 May 2007, BT is changing how it presents this differential from a discount for those customers paying by direct debit, to a charge for those paying by other means. BT has combined this change with an increase of £1.50 a quarter in the charge (from £3 to £4.50).

The Light User Scheme, In Contact and BT Basic will not be affected by the increased charge. These are the special tariff schemes offered to vulnerable customers by BT as a result of the Universal Service Obligation placed on the company.

I have raised the matter with the chief executive officer of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Ofcom is considering whether any of the changes BT has recently made raise any regulatory issues and is coming back to me on this in April.

Tour Operators: Competition

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will discuss the implications of the Thomas Cook-My Travel merger for competition in the UK package holiday market with the European Commissioner Health and Consumer Protection; and if he will make a statement. [128417]

Mr. McCartney: Investigation into the effects on competition in any merger is the responsibility of the independent competition authorities. Government Ministers have no role in this process and there are no plans to hold any discussions with the European Commission in relation to this proposed merger.

I would welcome any further information from the hon. Gentleman which may be helpful to the regulators.

Tour Operators: Mergers

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will discuss the implications of the competition issues arising from the TUI-First Choice merger in the UK package holiday market with the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection; and if he will make a statement. [130052]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 28 March 2007]:* Ministers have no plans to discuss this matter with representatives of the European Commission. The regulatory control of mergers is a matter for the relevant independent competition authorities with cases considered on grounds of their impact on competition in the relevant market. Ministers have no role in this process although they do retain certain powers to intervene in cases that raise narrowly defined public interest concerns.

I would welcome any further information from the hon. Gentleman which may be helpful to the regulators.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will hold discussions with *(a)* the Office of Fair Trading and *(b)* the Competition Commissioner on the state of the UK market in foreign package holidays. [130283]

Mr. McCartney: Ministers have no plans to discuss this matter either with the Office of Fair Trading or with representatives of the European Commission. The regulatory control of mergers is a matter for the relevant independent competition authorities with cases considered on grounds of their impact on competition in the relevant market. Ministers have no role in this process although they do retain certain powers to intervene in cases that raise narrowly defined public interest concerns.

I would welcome any further information from the hon. Gentleman which may be helpful to the regulators.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what representations he has received from consumer groups on the competition implications for the UK package holiday market of the proposed TUI-First Choice merger; [130005]

(2) what representations he has received from *(a)* independent and *(b)* non-vertically-integrated tour operators on the competition implications for the UK package holiday market of the proposed TUI-First Choice merger. [130006]

Mr. McCartney: Ministers have received no representations on this matter. The regulatory control of mergers is a matter for the relevant independent competition authorities with cases considered on grounds of their impact on competition in the relevant market. Ministers have no role in this process although they do retain certain powers to intervene in cases that raise narrowly defined public interest concerns.

I would welcome any further information from the hon. Gentleman which may be helpful to the regulators.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Arts: Finance

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the annual per capita expenditure was on arts funding in the Province in each of the last five years. [130702]

Maria Eagle: The annual per capita expenditure on arts funding Northern Ireland in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. These figures are based on Exchequer allocations to the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

	£
2002-03	5.79
2003-04	5.77
2004-05	6.49
2005-06	6.33
2006-07	6.25

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to ensure that per capita funding for the arts in Northern Ireland is at the same level as in the United Kingdom as a whole. [131132]

Maria Eagle: The level of funding for the arts in future years will be considered as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. The outcome will not be known until later in the year.

Autism

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety spent on service provision for children with autism in each health and social services board area in each of the last five years. [131305]

Paul Goggins: The proportion of the overall baseline which is spent by the health and social services boards for the provision of services for children with autism is not separately identified.

In addition to the provision of mainstream funding for children's services, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety allocated an additional
£0.5 million recurrent funding in 2004-05 to improve the life outcome for 200 children and young people with autism. In September 2006, a further £0.5 million recurrent funding was made available to provide early intervention services for 300 children with autistic spectrum disorders.

An element of the funding which is provided within health and personal social services baselines for adolescent psychiatry (£2.4 million in 2004-05) is also spent on services to support children with autism. The multi-disciplinary support teams established through the Children and Young People's Funding Package, March 2006, is also working alongside existing services in schools helping to provide diagnosis and interventions for children with autism.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how much the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has earmarked for service provision for children with autism for each of the next three years; [131306]

(2) whether he plans to increase the resources available for service provision for children with autism. [131307]

Paul Goggins: Budget decisions for the next three years, 2008-09 to 2010-11, will be agreed as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. Final decisions on future years' budgets will not therefore be made until December 2007 at the earliest.

Belfast-Bangor County Down Railway Line

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what investigation has been carried out by his Department to ascertain why the former Head of Infrastructure at Translink removed and destroyed the bulk of documentation relating to the upgrade of the Belfast to Bangor railway line when he left the company in March 2002. [130957]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Lady to paragraphs 3.13-3.16 of the Northern Ireland Audit Office report, which covers the actions taken by the Department. A copy of the report is available in the House of Commons Library or can be accessed via the Northern Ireland Audit Office website at

www.niauditoffice.gov.uk/index.asp.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to introduce a central document registry within Translink following the recommendations of the Northern Ireland Audit Office report on the upgrade of the Belfast to Bangor railway line. [130958]

David Cairns: The Board of the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company has purchased proprietary software to assist in file management and is working to progress the Audit Office's recommendation on records management.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the Northern Ireland Audit Office report on the upgrade of the Belfast to Bangor railway line; and if he will make a statement. [130960]

David Cairns: I welcome this Audit Office report 'The Upgrade of the Belfast to Bangor Railway Line' and its recommendations.

Significant lessons have been learned and applied as a result of this project, and work is under way to ensure the full implementation of the Audit Office's recommendations.

The Northern Ireland Audit Office report was scheduled to be considered by the Public Accounts Committee at Westminster on 28 March. The Committee decided to cancel the session but has commended it to the Stormont PAC as an urgent issue for its consideration when devolution returns.

Community Service

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many offenders were enrolled in community service programmes in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; how many offenders breached their community service orders over the same period; and what the consequence was of the breach in each case in which no legal proceedings are active. [130920]

Mr. Hanson: The Probation Board for Northern Ireland supervises Community Service Orders and Combination Orders, both of which require a number of hours of unpaid work to be completed by the offender.

The following table specifies the number of Community Service and Combination Orders made in the past six years.

Number of community service and combination orders made (2000-01 to 2005-06)

Orders Made	*Community Service Orders*	*Combination Orders*[1]
2000-01	708	100
2001-02	679	95
2002-03	728	119
2003-04	765	174
2004-05	769	159
2005-06	652	212

When offenders do not comply with the conditions outlined in a community based sanction, they may be returned to court for breach proceedings.

The following table specifies the number of breach proceedings initiated against individuals subject to Community Service and Combination Orders.

Number of breaches initiated for Community Service and Combination Orders (2000-01 to 2005-06)

Breaches	Community Service Orders	Combination Orders[1]
2000-01	301	49
2001-02	238	41
2002-03	211	0
2003-04	153	47
2004-05	178	46
2005-06	132	36

[1] A Combination Order is a sentence that combines a Probation Order and a Community Service Order.

The Probation Board has implemented an electronic case management system to record details of those subject to community supervision. This database has been operational across the PBNI from June 2006. Prior to June 2006, the Probation Board did not centrally collate the outcome of breach proceedings.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many hours of community service were carried out by offenders in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years. [130921]

Mr. Hanson: I am advised by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland that the numbers of hours of unpaid work to which offenders are sentenced in respect of community service and combination orders is as shown in the following table.

Number of hours unpaid work sentenced in court (2000-01 to 2005-06)[1]

	Community service and combination orders[2]
2000-01	105,500
2001-02	100,500
2002-03	100,000
2003-04	141,000
2004-05	118,500
2005-06	108,000

[1] The statistics shown in the table provide the number of hours imposed by the court on those subject to community service and combination orders respectively. In a small number of cases, for example, if an order was breached and then revoked, the hours may not have been completed. The figures provided have been rounded to the nearest 500 hours per year.
[2] A combination order is a sentence that combines a probation order and a community service order.

Complementary Medicine

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which organisations and individuals are involved in developing the pilot scheme on complementary and alternative therapies in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [130916]

Paul Goggins: My Department has convened a steering group which will bring together a number of key stakeholders whose role will be to guide and monitor the successful implementation of the pilot scheme. The group's first meeting will be in April. Get Well UK, the organisation administering the pilot on behalf of the DHSSPS, will report to the steering group on a regular basis.

In addition to staff from the DHSSPS, the steering group will have representatives from

Health and Social Services Boards;
Health and Social Services Council;
The General Osteopathic Council;
British Acupuncture Council;
British Chiropractic Association;
Northern Ireland Association of Homeopaths;
Federation of Holistic Therapists/Aromatherapy Council;
General Practitioner Committee (BMA NI)
The Prince's Foundation for Integrated Health.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to extend the pilot scheme in which patients can receive complementary and alternative therapies across Northern Ireland; and what assessment he has made of the take-up of complementary and alternative therapies in the areas where the scheme is being piloted. [130917]

Paul Goggins: A full independent evaluation of the pilot scheme will be carried out and will help inform any future decisions about the availability of complementary and alternative therapies in Northern Ireland.

Although the pilot is still at a very early stage, I have been encouraged by the progress made so far. The first patient was seen on 6 March and since then the pilot has received 101 patient referrals from GPs—56 from the Belfast pilot and 45 from Londonderry. A total of 79 referrals have been for patients suffering from musculoskeletal problems and 22 have involved mental health problems.

Council Tax

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the outturn effective tax rate (ETR) being charged in each council will be in Northern Ireland from April 2007; and what the average council ETR will be in Northern Ireland. [128626]

David Cairns: Individual district councils are responsible for determining the effective tax rate or district rates for both domestic and non-domestic properties. The 2007-08 rates for each council and the average rates for Northern Ireland are set out in the following table.

Pence

District council	Non-Domestic Rate[1]	Domestic Rate[2]
Antrim	21.5586	0.2875
Ards	19.8840	0.2409
Armagh	23.5527	0.3174
Ballymena	20.8049	0.2874
Ballymoney	21.5659	0.2768
Banbridge	22.5907	0.3003
Belfast	21.1641	0.2423
Carrickfergus	21.8348	0.2986
Castlereagh	15.5642	0.1871
Coleraine	18.9978	0.2506
Cookstown	19.3003	0.2444
Craigavon	21.8620	0.3395
Derry	23.2804	0.3365
Down	21.7020	0.2873

District council	Non-Domestic Rate[1]	Pence Domestic Rate[2]
Dungannon and South Tyrone	18.7035	0.2284
Fermanagh	14.7191	0.2032
Larne	21.9370	0.3236
Limavady	22.8353	0.3335
Lisburn	17.3615	0.2275
Magherafelt	17.5397	0.2214
Moyle	26.2998	0.3245
Newry and Mourne	19.5449	0.2672
Newtownabbey	22.1185	0.2832
North Down	16.5433	0.2235
Omagh	19.9548	0.3243
Strabane	19.9891	0.2937
Average rates	20.2682	0.2677

[1] Net Annual Values (NAV) were applied in the calculation of non-domestic rates.
[2] Capital values were applied in the calculation of domestic rates.

Creative Youth Partnerships Programme

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children took part in the Creative Youth Partnerships programme; what plans are in place to resource the programme in the future; and if he will make a statement on the performance of the programme against the objectives his Department has set for it. [131291]

Maria Eagle: From April 2004 to September 2006, 38,813 children and young people participated in Creative Youth Partnership programmes.

The three-year pilot scheme was due to conclude at the end of March 2007, but funding has been secured to extend the pilot for a further year at existing levels of activity.

The Department of Culture, Art, and Leisure will be bidding for funding for Creative Youth Partnerships in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review and the future of the programme will be dependent on the outcome of this.

The programme has been evaluated by the Education and Training Inspectorate and the report on this will be published shortly. Early indications are that good progress has been made in meeting the overall objectives of the Creative Youth Partnerships initiative and that the Inspectorate recommends the continuation of the programme, as it enhances and supports the education of children and young people.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* funding "advertorials" in newspapers or publications, in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic was of each. [129470]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office has only sponsored one newspaper supplement in 2006-07; this was the Organised Crime Task Force Annual Report Summary Leaflet the cost of which was £21,992.57. The Northern Ireland Office has not funded any advertorials in this period.

Departments: Consultants

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which external consultants were used by each Northern Ireland Government Department and its associated agencies in each of the past six years; and what the *(a)* hourly rate and *(b)* overall cost was in each case. [128028]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally in the format requested. However, I refer the hon. Lady to the reply I gave the hon. Member for South Down (Mr. McGrady) on 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 555W, which contains information on the overall expenditure on consultants by each Northern Ireland Department over the last five years.

I have also placed in the Library a list of the recipients of consultancy fees paid by each of the 11 Departments of the Northern Ireland Administration and the Northern Ireland Office (excluding agencies and non-departmental public bodies) in respect of the years 2002-03 to 2004-05.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what meetings took place between Ministers in his Department and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date was of each such meeting. [131035]

Mr. Hain: Ministers and civil servants meet a large number of people and groups in the course of their official duties. To extract this information from the diaries for all Ministers in my Department would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many work permits were applied for by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years. [127715]

Mr. Hain: No work permits have been applied for by the Northern Ireland Office or its agencies in each of the last five years.

Desmond Clayton

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland why his Department gave prior approval to the Northern Ireland Police Fund to make a severance payment to Mr. Desmond Clayton. [119339]

Paul Goggins: The Department considered the issue carefully, drawing on its own legal advice and discussing it with the accounting officer. Given the status of the Northern Ireland Police Fund as both a company limited by guarantee and an executive NDPB, matters relating to its operation including payments are a matter for the board of directors of the fund.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department approved for payment by the Northern Ireland Police Fund by way of severance payment for Mr. Desmond Clayton. [119340]

Paul Goggins: Given the status of the Northern Ireland Police Fund as both a company limited by guarantee and an executive NDPB, matters relating to its operation including payments are a matter for the board of directors of the fund.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what reason the Northern Ireland Police Fund gave to his Department for its request to approve a severance payment for Mr. Desmond Clayton. [119342]

Paul Goggins: After careful consideration and legal advice the NIO concluded that the impact on the working relationships between the chief executive, the fund's directors and the clients was such that the work of the fund was likely to have been adversely affected by his continued employment.

Diabetes

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to develop a diabetes services framework for the Province. [130686]

Paul Goggins: A framework for the development of services for people with diabetes, produced by a joint CREST/Diabetes UK Taskforce, was published in June 2003. The framework contained a wide range of recommendations and each of the four Health and Social Services Boards have local implementation groups to take forward the detailed planning and implementation of the framework. The Department has also established a Regional Diabetes Steering Group with representation from the four boards and Diabetes UK to oversee and monitor progress.

Doctors: Pay

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average annual earnings are of a full-time *(a)* general practitioner and *(b)* consultant psychiatrist in the Province. [130699]

Paul Goggins: Following the introduction of the new UK wide General Medical Services (GMS) contract with effect from 1 April 2004, the contract for the provision of General Medical Services is between the relevant Health and Social Services Board and a GMS practice rather than individual GPs. Under the contract, each GMS practice receives payment for services and can generate income through a number of streams, some of which are core and some in which participation is a matter of choice for the practice concerned. It is a matter for each GMS practice to determine how its services are organised and how the funding it receives is allocated between GP remuneration and practice expenses, including the employment of staff and other overheads.

Information is collected across the four countries on health service funding for GP practices and on the expenses to earnings split, based on audited accounts. The final information for the first year of the contract, (2004-05) has not yet been agreed at a UK level nor has it been disaggregated on a country by country basis) Consequently, an accurate assessment of GP earnings in NI under the new contract is not yet available

The average annual earnings in Northern Ireland of a consultant psychiatrist is £100,300.

Doctors: Training

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to improve the work-life balance of senior house officers seeking training posts. [130685]

Paul Goggins: The Department's Improving Junior Doctors' Working Lives Implementation Support Group (ISO) continues to work to ensure compliance with the European working time directive and new deal. The Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA) also fully supports less than full-time training.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of junior doctors in the Province who will be unable to obtain training posts in August 2007. [130697]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health has instigated a review of recruitment and selection for specialist training. Until the findings of this review have been implemented, the number of junior doctors unable to obtain training posts in the province cannot be determined.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to assist experienced senior house officers in the Province in obtaining specialist training. [130698]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA) organised four workshops for experienced SHO's to advise them on the new recruitment process.

Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the timetable is for *(a)* local authorities to finalise their district rate for 2007-08, *(b)* finalising the level of the regional rate for 2007-08 and *(c)* the posting of domestic rates bills to local authorities; and on which day in April 2007 liability starts for the new domestic rates bills. [130557]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The table of district rates for 2007-08 was published on 16 February 2007;

(b) The Rates (Regional Rates) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007 was made on 29 January 2007;

(c) Rate bills are not posted to local authorities; and

(d) Rate liability for domestic property is effective from 1 April of each year.

Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the capital value of a domestic property which is part of another property and has a dependent relative living in it is added to the capital value of the main domestic property when the domestic property is valued for domestic rates under the new discrete capital values system. [130556]

Mr. Hanson: Each separate property has a capital value assessment in the Valuation List irrespective of occupier.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what co-efficient value was given to the property attribute for adjoining a golf course in each of the 25 market areas in the Valuation and Lands Agency calibrated multiple regression formula used in domestic rates revaluation in Northern Ireland. [130564]

Mr. Hanson: Belfast is the only market area which has a co-efficient allocated to the property attribute for adjoining a golf course and the value of this co-efficient is 0.083.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what fine may be imposed on residents who do not fill in a questionnaire sent by the Valuation and Lands Agency asking for information on the property attributes of their residence. [130570]

Mr. Hanson: The Valuation and Lands Agency has not sent and is not contemplating sending a questionnaire to residents asking for information on the property attributes of their residence.

Domestic Waste: Republic of Ireland

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate has been made of the amount of household waste illegally dumped in Northern Ireland originating from the Republic of Ireland in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [130559]

David Cairns: The Environment and Heritage Service estimates that a minimum of 250,000 tonnes of household waste from the Republic of Ireland has been illegally disposed of in Northern Ireland since 2003. Given the clandestine and criminal nature of the activity, it is impossible to accurately quantify the extent of this activity on an annual basis. Material illegally landfilled in the period 2003-06 is still being discovered. To date, over 50 illegal landfill sites have been discovered in Northern Ireland containing waste originating from the Republic of Ireland.

Educational Psychology

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average length of time a child will wait to see an educational psychologist is in each health and social services board area in Northern Ireland. [131303]

Maria Eagle: The chief executive officers of the education and library boards state that this information is only available in relation to their own areas and not in relation to health and social services board areas.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Strangford (Mrs. Robinson) on 23 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 983W.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children are waiting to see an educational psychologist in each health and social services board area in Northern Ireland. [131304]

Maria Eagle: The chief executives of the education and library boards state that this information is only available in relation to their own areas and not in relation to health and social services board areas.

The following numbers of children are waiting to see educational psychologists.

	Number
Belfast education and library board	458
North Eastern education and library board	675
Western education and library board	280
Southern education and library board	588
South Eastern education and library board	719

These figures are in regard to children with a variety of need, including stage 3 (non-statutory assessments) and stage 4 (statutory assessments) of the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs, reviews at stage 3 and stage 5 of the code of practice, special testing at transfer stage between (primary and post-primary, pre-school and examination arrangements.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many tax discs were issued in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years, broken down by vehicle category. [129583]

David Cairns: The following table shows the numbers of vehicles licensed in Northern Ireland at the 31 December for the last six years, for which vehicles are currently available, broken down by vehicle category.

Vehicle category	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Private Light Goods (cars and light vans)	615,180	644,968	666,731	711,913	737,198	765,061
Motorcycles and mopeds	14,116	15,205	17,598	23,820	24,533	25,998
HGV	17,864	19,415	20,244	22,100	23,062	23,517
Bus	2,266	2,315	2,322	2,353	2,378	2,566
Agricultural Tractors	5,048	4,901	5,731	7,503	8,674	9,584
Other	1,287	1,366	1,347	1,671	1,794	1,898
Crown Vehicles	3,822	6,427	6,383	6,172	6,116	6,367
Exempt Vehicles	71,147	72,708	74,121	77,210	79,506	82,408
Total	730,730	767,305	794,477	852,742	883,261	917,399

Fly-tipping

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what co-operation there has been with the Irish Government on tackling the problem of cross-border illegal dumping. [131023]

David Cairns: Bilateral meetings have been held at ministerial level to discuss matters of mutual interest and the illegal movement of waste has been identified as a key area of concern.

Officials from the Department of the Environment are working closely with counterparts in the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DOEHLG) to finalise a structured plan to deal with existing illegal waste dumped in Northern Ireland originating from Ireland and to prevent possible future illegal waste movements. The plan envisages co-operative operations involving enforcement authorities and, where appropriate, repatriation of waste from Ireland illegally dumped in Northern Ireland.

Officers from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have attended Northern Ireland operations in which waste from Ireland has been identified. Officers from DOE have also been witnesses in EPA prosecution cases heard in Irish courts.

In January 2007, the Environment and Heritage Service, in conjunction with counterparts from the EPA, supervised the return of illegally deposited waste to Ireland from an illegal landfill in Co. Armagh, where an estimated 150 tonnes of commercial/household waste had been deposited.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many reports of fly-tipping were received by the Environment and Heritage Service in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [130558]

David Cairns: The Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) holds details of alleged illegal or unauthorised waste activities. It does not have figures for fly-tipping, which, although not legally defined, has in the past been used to describe largely domestic, low-quantity incidents. Such small-scale cases are generally dealt with by district councils.

The EHS is currently implementing the Flycapture software used by the Environment Agency to facilitate a consistent approach to the impact of fly-tipping across the UK, and is liaising with councils to encourage their use of the system. Flycapture records all incidents of illegal dumping, from a single black bin liner up to sites with thousands of tonnes of waste. This will allow the problem to be quantified, and enforcement, clean-up activities and budgets to be directed to areas of greatest need.

The EHS received the following number of allegations of illegal or unauthorised activities relating to controlled waste.

	Number
2004	1,256
2005	1,339
2006	1,436

Graffiti

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on removing graffiti in each local authority area in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years for which figures are available. [129557]

David Cairns: The Department of the Environment does not hold information on the cost of removing graffiti in Northern Ireland.

Health and Social Services Authority

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the merits of separating the Health and Social Services Authority functions from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. [130688]

Paul Goggins: Under the proposed new arrangements, the Department will retain statutory responsibility for securing the delivery of the services necessary to promote the health and wellbeing of the population. The role of the authority will be to implement the Government's policies for health and social services, to manage performance of the system and to commission services to meet the demands of patients. These roles are not appropriate to a central Government Department. The new, much smaller DHSSPS will be able to focus on assisting the Minister with policy, legislation and strategic planning and resource allocation. This separation of roles within the new organisational arrangements will lead to clearer accountability, improved efficiency and better outcomes from more responsive, person-centred services.

Hearing Aids

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual average waiting time is for people requiring a new digital hearing aid from the point of referral from GP to final fitting of the hearing aid in Northern Ireland. [130782]

Paul Goggins: Audiology is one of the areas subject to the new diagnostic targets set out in Priorities for Action 2007-08, which states that no patient should have to wait longer than 13 weeks for a diagnostic test. Therefore, the target for people requiring a new digital hearing aid from the point of referral from GP to final fitting of the hearing aid will be 13 weeks in Northern Ireland.

Information on the average waiting time for a new digital hearing aid from the point of referral from GP to final fitting of the aid in Northern Ireland is not collected centrally. However, information is collected on the number of people who were waiting for a hearing aid assessment/reassessment to be completed according to specified time bands. Waiting time is counted from the date a referral is received by the audiology department until the aid is fitted.

As waiting list information is collected by specified time bands, it is not possible to calculate the actual average waiting time for a digital hearing aid. On 31 March 2006, 2,184 patients were waiting for a

hearing assessment / reassessment in Northern Ireland; 1,089 had waited for six to 12 months, 563 for less than three months, 420 waited three to six months, and 112 for 12 months or more.

Information on hearing aid assessments / reassessments for the quarters ending 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006 is due for release in early May 2007. It has been delayed until inconsistencies and validation errors are resolved with audiology departments in Northern Ireland.

Irish Language

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 562W, what his Department's estimate is of the cost of implementing an Irish Language Bill. [127885]

Maria Eagle: It has been estimated that in the 2008-09 financial year, the first full year after any Irish Language Bill becomes law, total expenditure by Northern Ireland Departments on the Irish language could be in the region of £12.55 million. This represents an increase over existing expenditure of approximately £2.81 million.

Macular Degeneration

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of people *(a)* diagnosed with age-related macular degeneration and *(b)* who develop blindness each year as the result of age-related macular degeneration in the Province. [130684]

Paul Goggins: An estimate of the number of people diagnosed with age-related macular degeneration is not available. However, the number of admissions to hospital where the patient had a diagnosis of macular degeneration is available and is detailed in the following table.

	Admissions[1]
2005-06	438

[1] Discharges and deaths are used as an approximation to admissions.
Source:
Hospital Inpatient System.

An estimate of the number of patients who develop blindness each year as the result of age-related macular degeneration in the Province is not available.

Motor Vehicles

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of vehicles registered in the Republic of Ireland which used roads in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years. [129582]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 3 April 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a parliamentary question regarding, what estimate he has made of the number of vehicles registered in the Republic of Ireland which used roads in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years. As Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

I should explain that Roads Service collects data on the volume of traffic on Northern Ireland's roads to help contribute to the effective management of the road network and to help with the development of future road improvements. This data is collected via some 270 automatic traffic counting sites located on roads across Northern Ireland. This information is published in our annual Traffic and Travel Information Report, copies of which will be placed in the House of Commons Library shortly. The automatic traffic counting sites use loops cut into the road surface to detect vehicles as they pass. They provide details of the number of vehicles broken down into five classes (cars, light vans, articulated lorries etc).

The majority of the main ('A' Class) border roads have an automatic counting site, but it is not possible from the information provided by these to determine the country of registration of a vehicle. Therefore it is not possible to make an estimate of the number of vehicles registered in the Republic of Ireland which used roads in Northern Ireland, from this source of information.

In order to ascertain the number of vehicles registered in the Republic of Ireland using roads in Northern Ireland each year, it would be necessary to carry out a survey that noted the registration numbers of vehicles passing various points. Roads Service currently does not carry out this type of survey and has no plans to do so.

My officials also consulted with other relevant Departments, but it would appear that they do not collect the information you requested either.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Guidance

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland who is responsible for decisions on *(a)* applicability and *(b)* implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance in Northern Ireland. [130695]

Paul Goggins: Decisions on the application of NICE guidance in Northern Ireland are a matter for the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. The Department also sets timescales for health and social care organisations to put plans in place to facilitate implementation of NICE technology appraisal guidance. Responsibility for implementation of NICE guidance rests with the Health and Social Care.

New Businesses

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what total amount of business start-up assistance was provided to *(a)* male applicants, *(b)* female applicants and *(c)* ethnic minority applicants in Northern Ireland in each year since 2000. [129705]

Maria Eagle: Information on applicants for business start-up assistance by gender and ethnic group is only available since April 2002 for those supported through the Northern Ireland Start a Business programme.

Table 1 provides information relating to offers made through the Start a Business programme by gender of applicant over the period April 2002 - March 2006.

Table 1

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Total*
Female	511,750	671,000	1,026,750	696,900	2,906,400
Male	942,500	1,187,500	1,598,000	894,050	4,622,050
Total	1,454,250	1,858,500	2,624,750	1,590,950	7,528,450

Table 2 provides information relating to these offers by ethnic origin.

Table 2

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Total*
White	1,441,750	1,838,750	2,593,750	1,510,950	7,385,200
Other ethnic groups and undisclosed	12,500	19,750	31,000	80,000	143,250
Total	1,454,250	1,858,500	2,624,750	1,590,950	7,528,450

Other ethnic groups include Bangladeshi, Black African, Black Caribbean, Chinese, Indian, mixed ethnic groups, other ethnic groups and Pakistani.

North South Implementation Bodies

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the Government signed off the financial memorandum relating to each cross-border body established in consequence of the Belfast Agreement. [130487]

Mr. Hanson: The Financial Memoranda (FM) for each cross border body established in consequence of the Belfast Agreement were signed off by Government as shown in the following table.

Cross-border Body	*Date FM signed off*
Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)	December 1999
Language Body (Foras na Gaeilge/Ulster Scots Agency)	September 2000
Loughs Agency (FCILC)	April 2005 - draft in place from 2000
Food Safety Promotion Board (FSPB)	December 1999
Tourism Ireland Limited (TIL)	July 2001
Intertrade Ireland (ITI)	December 1999
Waterways Ireland	December 1999

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Government are satisfied with the financial and equality provisions in place in respect of cross-border bodies established in consequence of the Belfast Agreement; and whether these correspond with the requirements placed on non-cross-border public bodies within Northern Ireland. [130488]

Mr. Hanson: I am satisfied with the arrangements relating to financial and equality provisions in place in respect of those cross-border bodies established in consequence of the Belfast Agreement and that they are comparable to those placed on other non-cross-border public bodies in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether employees from Northern Ireland working within the cross-border bodies, established in consequence of the Belfast Agreement are subject to the Government's public sector pay policy. [130489]

Mr. Hanson: The cross-border bodies are accountable to the North/South Ministerial Council and are jointly funded by the Northern Ireland public expenditure system and the Irish Government. Northern Ireland staff employed in the cross-border bodies generally follow the NICS pay award and their pay growth is considered, with due regard to public sector pay policy, as part of the business planning process. For these reasons cross-border bodies are currently outside the formal HM Treasury pay remits process.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what sub-groups operate *(a)* under and *(b)* within the cross-border bodies established in consequence of the Belfast Agreement. [130490]

Mr. Hanson: Details of sub-groups operating *(a)* under and *(b)* within the cross-border bodies established in consequence of the Belfast Agreement are provided in the following table.

Name of Body	*Sub-groups operating under the body*	*Sub-groups operating within the body*
Waterways Ireland	Audit Committee	Directors Group
	Marketing Advisory Group	Management Consultative Group
		Regional Managers Forum
		Health and Safety Committee
		Regional Safety Committee
		Organisational Review Steering Group
		Policy Steering Group
		Equality steering Group
		Internal Equality Consultation Group
		Industrial Relations Forum
		Partnership Forum with following sub-groups: Customer Services sub-group; Merit Award sub-group; Time Banking sub-group; Review of Partnership sub-group.
		NTSN Steering Group
		Bye-Laws Working Group
		Purchase Order Procedures Group

Name of Body	*Sub-groups operating under the body*	*Sub-groups operating within the body*
		IT Steering Group
		Assets Steering Group
		Personal Injuries Assessment Board Group
Trade and Business Development Body—InterTrade Ireland	FUSION Steering Committee	Board Audit Committee
	Equity Network Steering Committee	Board Equality Sub-Committee
	Acumen Management Committee	Board Human Resources Sub-Committee
	BioMed Ireland Steering Committee	Board Communications Sub-Committee
	All Island Software Network Steering Committee	
	All Island Polymer and Plastics Steering Committee	
	All Island Learning Networks Steering Committee	
	MicroTrade Steering Group	
	FOCUS Steering Committee	
	INNOVA Steering Committee	
	Expertise Ireland Steering Group	
The Food Safety Promotion Board	None	FSPB Advisory Board
		FSPS Scientific Advisory Committee
		Internal Audit Committee
Language Body—Ulster Scots Agency	—	Internal Audit Committee
Language Body—Foras na Gaeilge	—	Internal Audit Committee
		Policy Committee
		Grants Committee
		Appeal Committee
		Newspaper and Magazines Committee
		Remuneration Committee
The Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission	Loughs Agency	Marine Tourism Sub-Committee
		Audit, Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee
		Shellfish and Aquaculture Sub-Committee
		Salmon and Inland Fisheries Sub-Committee
		Advisory Forum
		Marine Tourism including Water Based Leisure Focus Group
		Shellfish and Aquaculture Focus Group
		Environmental Focus Group
		Salmon and Inland Fisheries Focus Group
		Foyle and Carlingford Fisheries Bill
		Consultation Focus Group
Tourism Ireland	Tourism Marketing Partnership	Risk Management Committee
	Industry Steering Groups	Nomination and Remuneration Committee
Special EU Programmes Body	Antrim Local Strategy Partnership	Audit Committee
	Ards Local Strategy Partnership	
	Armagh Local Strategy Partnership	
	Ballymena Local Strategy Partnership	
	Ballymoney Local Strategy Partnership	
	Banbridge Local Strategy Partnership	
	Belfast Local Strategy Partnership	
	Border Action	
	Carrickfergus Local Strategy Partnership	
	Castlereagh Local Strategy Partnership	

Name of Body	Sub-groups operating under the body	Sub-groups operating within the body
	Coleraine Local Strategy Partnership	
	COMET INTERREG IIIA Partnership	
	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI)	
	Community Relations Council (CRC)	
	Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT)	
	Co-operation Ireland	
	Cookstown Local Strategy Partnership	
	Craigavon Local Strategy Partnership	
	Derry Local Strategy Partnership	
	Down District Local Strategy Partnership	
	East Border Region INTERREG IIIA Partnership	
	Educational Guidance Service for Adults (EGSA)	
	Fermanagh Local Strategy Partnership	
	Irish Central Area Border Network INTERREG IIIA Partnership	
	Larne Local Strategy Partnership	
	Limavady Local Strategy Partnership	
	Lisburn Local Strategy Partnership	
	Magherafelt Local Strategy Partnership	
	Moyle Local Strategy Partnership	
	Newry and Mourne Local Strategy Partnership	
	Newtownabbey Local Strategy Partnership	
	North Down Local Strategy Partnership	
	North East INTERREG IIIA Partnership	
	North West Region Cross Border INTERREG IIIA Partnership	
	NIPPA—the Early Years Organisation	
	Omagh Local Strategy Partnership	
	Playboard	
	PROTEUS	
	Rural Development Council (RDC)	
	South Tyrone Area Partnership	
	Strabane Local Strategy Partnership	
	Training for Women Network (TWN)	
	Youth Education Social Inclusion Partnership (YESIP)	

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* the North/South Language Body and *(b)* the Ulster-Scots Agency in each year since its formation. [130492]

Maria Eagle: The amount of funding from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure for the North/South Language Body and the Ulster-Scots Agency each year since its formation is shown in the following table.

£ million

	North South language body	Ulster-Scots Agency
2000	2.303	0.5
2001	3.5	0.97
2002	3.71	1.07
2003	4.005	1.155
2004	4.561	1.337
2005	4.599	1.357
2006	5.095	1.61

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are employed by the *(a)* North/South Language Body and *(b)* Ulster-Scots Agency; and what the source of the funding for these posts is. [130493]

Maria Eagle: The number of people employed by the North/South Language Body and the Ulster-Scots Agency and their source of funding is shown in the following table.

	Number of staff	Funding source
North/South Language Body (Foras na Gaeilge and Ulster- Scots Agency)	54 (permanent)	Sponsoring Departments (Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in NI, and Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in the Republic of Ireland)
	2 (secondees)	
	4 (temporary)	
	3 (project)	Special European Union Programme Body
Total	63	
Ulster-Scots Agency	11	Sponsoring Departments Fixed Term appointments
	3	SEUPB project
Total	14	

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget of the *(a)* North/South Language Body and *(b)* Ulster-Scots Agency was in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [130494]

Maria Eagle: The financial year for all the North-South implementation bodies is the calendar year. The budgets for the 2004, 2005 and 2006 years are shown in the following table.

			£ million
	2004	2005	2006
North/South Language Body	14.683	14.777	15. 837
Ulster-Scots Agency	1.784	1.809	2. 132

Northern Ireland Executive: Departmental Co-ordination

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the extent of data sharing across Northern Ireland's Government Departments and agencies. [127132]

Mr. Hanson: While there has been no formal assessment of the extent of data sharing across Northern Ireland's Departments and agencies to date, it is recognised that there is a need for Northern Ireland Departments and agencies to share data where it is necessary to carry out the normal business of the Department.

Indeed, there are already some pockets of data-sharing excellence in areas as diverse as the Causeway programme, a joint enterprise within the criminal justice system where electronically shared information is improving business process and performance, and the Northern Ireland Mapping Agreement which supplies the Ordnance Survey Northern Ireland product range, including the Pointer database, to all NICS Departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies, including local councils.

Orchestras: Finance

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding he plans to provide for the Ulster Orchestra in 2007-08; and how much funding was provided in each of the last five years. [130701]

Maria Eagle: Funding provided by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland to the Ulster Orchestra in each of the last five years including the planned allocation for 2007-08 is shown in the following table.

	£
2002-03	1,344,000
2003-04	1,690,000
2004-05	1,740,000
2005-06	1,892,921
2006-07	1,925,113
2007-08	1,925,113

Outdoor Advertising

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to introduce measures in Northern Ireland of equivalent effect to the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007. [131150]

David Cairns: I am presently considering whether equivalent regulations to the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007 should be introduced in Northern Ireland. However, given the imminent return to a devolved Administration in May, the decision on whether to introduce such measures would be a matter for the Northern Ireland Executive.

Planning

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many enforcement officers *(a)* are employed by the planning division in Northern Ireland and *(b)* were employed in each of the last five years. [130780]

David Cairns: The Department of the Environment's Planning Service currently employs 45 enforcement officers. The number of enforcement officers employed in the previous three years is shown in the following table. Prior to 2004, a separate staff complement for enforcement officers was not maintained as enforcement staff were counted as part of the overall divisional development control staff complement.

As at March each year	Number of enforcement officers
2006	51
2005	46
2004	56

The total staff complement for enforcement is 57. The Planning Service intends to appoint additional staff in the near future to increase the current total to the full complement following a recent recruitment and promotion exercise.

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget *(a)* is for the planning division for enforcement officers for the 2006-07 financial year and *(b)* was in the 2005-06 financial year. [130781]

David Cairns: While the Planning Service does not hold budgets for costs at this level, actual expenditure for enforcement officers for the *(a)* 2006-07 financial year is estimated to be £1.53 million and *(b)* 2005-06 financial year was £1.38 million.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action is being taken to deal with the backlog of cases at the Planning Appeals Commission. [130835]

Mr. Hanson: The Commission secured an increase in complement to 21 full-time commissioners, from 17, in August 2006, and continues to utilise panel commissioners who are paid on a fee by case basis and has put forward a business case for a further increase in resources.

In an attempt to ensure that further increases in delays to the determination of appeals are minimised, the Commission has advised the Department of the Environment that it will likely have to constrain its involvement in progressing examinations or inquiries and has limited the Department to referring no more than two of these to run concurrently.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Redundancy Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what details were passed to his Department by the Northern Ireland Police Fund regarding the dismissal of Mr. Desmond Clayton; [119341]

(2) whether details of severance packages paid to members of staff at the Northern Ireland Police Fund are among the issues his Department discusses with the Fund as part of standard corporate governance arrangements. [119348]

Paul Goggins: As part of the standard corporate governance arrangements regular meetings are held and correspondence exchanged on a range of issues relating to the business of the Northern Ireland Police Fund.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions were held with the Northern Ireland Pharmaceutical Contractors Committee before reducing the negotiated fee for multiple dispensed prescription items. [130689]

Paul Goggins: The rate of multiple dispensing fees has formed part of various discussions and negotiations with the Pharmaceutical Contractors' Committee (PCC) over several years.

The Department recently withdrew its letter of 26 January 2007 and reinstated the rate of all fees to their former levels for 2006-07, pending the outcome of ongoing negotiations with the PCC. The February clawback will be reversed and repaid in pharmacies in the March monthly payment.

Recent discussions with PCC have led to meaningful progress towards resolution of multiple dispensing and medicines management issues which are part of ongoing negotiations on the new pharmacy contract.

Prisons: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people from *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* the Republic of Ireland and *(e)* overseas were held in each Northern Ireland prison in each of the last six years. [120439]

Paul Goggins: The following table has been compiled from the address given by the prisoner at the time of committal. To break down those classified as GB into individual countries would involve a disproportionate cost. The figures listed are from the last six years for which statistics are available. It is not currently possible to differentiate between overseas prisoners and those from Northern Ireland of no fixed address. However, since July 2006 foreign nationals have been recorded separately.

Prison receptions by address and establishment

	Establishment				
Address	Magilligan	Hydebank Wood (YOC)	Maghaberry (male)	Hydebank Wood (female)	Total
2005					
Northern Ireland	450	1,284	3,420	279	5,433
GB	11	5	55	7	78
ROI	5	10	49	6	70
Other/No fixed address	12	30	251	38	331
Total	478	1,329	3,775	330	5,912

Prison receptions by address and establishment

Address	Establishment: Magilligan	Hydebank Wood (YOC)	Maghaberry (male)	Hydebank Wood (female)	Total
2004					
Northern Ireland	460	1,263	3,081	298	5,102
GB	8	2	52	6	68
ROI	2	6	28	6	42
Other/No fixed address	9	36	177	21	243
Total	479	1,307	3,338	331	5,455
2003					
Northern Ireland	467	1,202	3,013	221	4,903
GB	8	1	49	15	73
ROI	5	10	44	10	69
Other/No fixed address	15	47	176	26	264
Total	495	1,260	3,282	272	5,309
2002					
Northern Ireland	405	1,168	2,758	212	4,543
GB	5	7	40	3	55
ROI	4	9	30	4	47
Other/No fixed address	24	43	147	6	220
Total	438	1,227	2,975	225	4,865
2001					
Northern Ireland	374	1,104	2,459	185	4,122
GB	6	2	27	3	38
ROI	3	7	20	2	32
Other/No fixed address	30	48	140	6	224
Total	413	1,161	2,646	196	4,416
2000					
Northern Ireland	484	1,223	2,878	224	4,809
GB	11	6	40	3	60
ROI	8	5	23	8	44
Other/No fixed address	59	49	147	17	272
Total	562	1,283	3,088	252	5,185

Pupils: Intimidation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to ensure that education and library boards in Northern Ireland collect statistics on the incidences of bullying recorded in schools in Northern Ireland. [130953]

Maria Eagle: There are no plans at present to do so; however, information about the scale and nature of bullying in Northern Ireland schools will be contained in a research report, which will be published later this year.

Racial Hostility Offences

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2006 to the hon. Member for Foyle, *Official Report*, column 781W, on racial hostility offences, what progress has been made by the Government and enforcement and prosecution authorities in developing a mechanism to collect information on sentences imposed for offences motivated by hostility towards a person's race in relation to the Criminal Justice (No. 2) (Northern Ireland) Order 2004. [127763]

Mr. Hanson: The Public Prosecution Service is currently in the process of identifying cases since late 2005 where, in the judgment of a Public Prosecutor, there was a racial motivation behind offences. This will enable the identification of sentences by the Court Service imposed for offences motivated by hostility towards a person's race. I will arrange for any information on sentences imposed to be forwarded when it is available.

Railways: Freight

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to increase the amount of freight transported by rail in Northern Ireland. [130955]

David Cairns: Rail freight is uncompetitive for short journeys and for this reason rail freight operations ceased in Northern Ireland in 2004. There are no plans to revive them.

Rates and Rating

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the eligibility criteria are for the new Northern Ireland special rate relief; and if he will make a statement. [130961]

Mr. Hanson: The rules governing eligibility for the new Rate Relief Scheme are the same as those that apply to the existing Housing Benefit Rate Rebate system. That is, that the ratepayer is habitually resident and has recourse to public funds; is occupying the hereditament as their home; and is liable to pay rates in respect of the hereditament. The level of award depends on the individual circumstances of the claimant.

Regeneration: Belfast

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the expected completion date is for the Department for Social Development's appraisal of the proposal for redevelopment of the Greater Village Area. [131774]

Mr. Hanson: Given the extent of the area and the cost associated with the proposed redevelopment, the appraisal will require careful scrutiny by Government. I would anticipate that this process will take some months to complete.

Roads: Bangor

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many accidents were recorded on the A2 Bangor to Belfast road in each of the last three years; and how long the road closed as a result in each case. [129584]

Paul Goggins: I have been advised by the PSNI of the following details in respect of accidents recorded on the A2 Bangor to Belfast Road. The following table shows injury road traffic collisions between the junctions of Knocknagoney Road and Abbey Street/ Brunswick Road, Bangor. I have been advised that they do not record road closure times at accidents.

1 January 2004 to 31 December 2006

	Fatal collisions	*Serious collisions*	*Slight collisions*	*All collisions*	*Killed*	*Seriously injured*	*Slightly injured*	*All casualties*
1 January to 31 December 2004	2	9	23	34	2	13	58	73
1 January to 31 December 2005	1	5	32	38	1	8	52	61
1 January to 31 December 2006[1]	2	6	39	47	2	6	77	85

[1] Please note 2006 figures are still provisional. *Source:* Central Statistics Unit, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Lisnasharragh

Due to ongoing validation, this information may be subject to change.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment has been carried out by his Department of the adequacy of *(a)* road safety (i) signage and (ii) measures and *(b)* sightlines at Six Road Ends in Bangor. [129585]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 3 April 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a parliamentary question regarding, what recent assessment has been carried out by his Department of the adequacy of *(a)* road safety (i) signage and (ii) measures and *(b)* sightlines at Six Road Ends in Bangor. As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

As you may be aware, Roads Service commenced a junction improvement scheme at Six Road Ends, Bangor in August 2006. Proposals for this improvement scheme were initiated as a result of the 14 recorded personal injury collisions, including one fatality at this location over the past 10 years. In addition, it was noted that motorists experienced lengthy delays during peak periods as a result of the complicated nature of the junction.

The current scheme aims to improve road safety for all road users at the junction, by reducing congestion and driver confusion. It involves the construction of a four leg roundabout with Green Road and Ballycrochan Road realigned to form priority junctions with Gransha Road and Cotton Road respectively. Sightlines, designed in accordance with the requirements of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, for the new roundabout scheme have been greatly improved.

With regards signage, Roads Service erects traffic signs permitted under the Traffic Signs Regulations (NI) 1997. These signs are designed and erected in accordance with the Traffic Sign Manual and this will be the case with signage at the new roundabout at Six Road Ends.

A scheme of this nature is subject to an independent safety audit after completion of each of the preliminary design, detailed design and construction stages. As part of the planning approval process, the scheme received the approval of both Down District and Ards borough councils when presented in detail before both on 26 July 2005 and 13 September 2005 respectively. Full planning permission was obtained in February 2006.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the surface quality of the High Bangor-Donaghadee Road; and if he will make funding available to upgrade the road at the conclusion of the building works for the new wastewater treatment facility at Donaghadee. [129589]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. McKibbin, dated 3 April 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding, what recent assessment he has made of the surface quality of the High Bangor—Donaghadee Road; and if he will make funding available to

upgrade the road at the conclusion of the building works for the new wastewater treatment facility at Donaghadee.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

You will recall meeting with staff from our Ards Section Office on 23 February 2007 regarding a matter you had raised during an earlier meeting with the Divisional Roads Manager, Tom McCourt and myself about Warren Road, Donaghadee. At the 23 February meeting Mr Lamb, the Section Engineer in Ards, advised you that we were aware that the B21 High Bangor Road had suffered over the years as a result of several utilities openings and it was high on our list of priority schemes for resurfacing. He also explained that such a scheme had not been implemented to date as Roads Service was aware that further works were to be carried out on this road by the Water Service in connection with the new wastewater treatment plant at Donaghadee.

I can assure you that, following completion of the wastewater treatment plant, Roads Service will give this scheme a high priority when considering future programmes of work. In the meantime the condition of the road will be monitored under our cyclic inspection regime and repairs will be effected as required in accordance with our maintenance policy.

Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children: Surgery

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether a dedicated infant surgical unit will be maintained at the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children. [130693]

Paul Goggins: The Infant Surgical service in the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children (RBHSC) provides care for sick infants, many of whom require highly specialised surgery and post-operative care.

Infant surgical beds have been temporarily relocated within other wards in the hospital while refurbishment work is carried out. The infant surgical unit will reopen in new facilities adjacent to an existing children's surgical ward, which will provide improved accommodation for both patients and their families. The new location adjacent to other paediatric services will also facilitate the maintenance of appropriate staffing levels, thereby ensuring the quality and safety of patient care. The unit will reopen later this year.

The interim arrangements have not led to any reduction in beds or diminution of the service.

Sentencing

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of community sentencing as a means of cutting crime in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [131417]

Mr. Hanson: The most recent assessment of community sentencing is published in the Statistics and Research Bulletin 3/2006 "Reconviction in Northern Ireland: Results from the 2002 cohort". This bulletin monitors progress against the Northern Ireland Office public service agreement to reduce reconvictions. The following table details the community sentencing data and shows that the actual reconviction rate was 9.9 per cent. lower than the predicted reconviction rate.

Two year reconviction rates against predicted rates—2002

	Community sentencing[1]
Total	1,448
Reconvicted	582
Actual (percentage)	40.2
Predicted (percentage)	44.6
Difference (percentage)[2]	9.9

[1] Includes community service orders, attendance centre orders, probation orders and combination orders.
[2] Percentage difference = (predicted — actual)/predicted.

Social Services: Sexual Offences

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* lowest and *(c)* average amount paid per patient by each health trust in the Province to (i) independent social care providers and (ii) independent providers of social care for sex offenders was in the last 12 months. [130705]

Paul Goggins: Information on the costs of independent social care provision for sex offenders is not available.

Information on the amounts paid per patient to independent social care providers by each health trust is also not available. However, annually published reference costs give the total cost of Independent domiciliary care per hour provided and the total cost of independent daycare per day attendance. They also give the total cost of Independent Residential Care and nursing care per occupied week. On these bases, across NI health trusts the highest, lowest and average 2005-06 costs for each service are shown in the following table.

£

	Highest	*Lowest*	*Average*
Independent services—Domiciliary care (cost per hour provided)	13.46	7.71	10.75
Independent Daycare (cost per day attendance)	43.13	13.42	26.98
Independent Residential Care (cost per occupied week)	485	332	472
Nursing Care (cost per occupied week)	577	447	494

Source:
DHSSPS Reference Costs 2005-06

Social Services: Sperrin Lakeland Health and Social Care Trust

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust had their social care needs assessed incorrectly in each of the last five years. [130704]

Paul Goggins: Information on the numbers of people whose social care needs were assessed incorrectly is not collected centrally.

The Community Information Branch (CIB) within the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, requested the information from the Chief Executive of Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust who confirmed that it is not recorded.

If a complaint is received that an inaccurate assessment of need has taken place, the normal course of action will be for the appropriate team manager to

review the assessment. If the review is upheld as being inaccurate, a reassessment is undertaken and any inaccuracy is addressed as a training issue with the appropriate staff.

South Eastern Education and Library Board

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will break down by declared religious affiliation and area of responsibility the number of staff employed at the Headquarters of the South Eastern Education and Library Board. [131633]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the composition of the South Eastern Education and Library Board's workforce by community background as at 23 March 2007. The information has been provided by the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Education and Library Board.

	Community background			
	Protestant	*Roman Catholic*	*Non Determined*	*Total*
HQ total	253	131	72	456
	[1]55.5%	[1]28.7%	[1]15.8%	
	[2]65.9%	[2]34.1%		
Finance	63	30	21	114
	[1]55.3%	[1]26.3%	[1]18.4%	
	[2]67.7%	[2]32.3%		
Administration	43	31	9	83
	[1]51.8%	[1]37.4%	[1]10.8%	
	[2]58.1%	[2]41.9%		
Education	120	57	32	209
	[1]57.4%	[1]27.3%	[1]15.3%	
	[2]67.8%	[2]32.2%		
Other	27	13	10	50
	[1]54.0%	[1]26.0%	[1]20.0%	
	[2]67.5%	[2]32.5%		

[1] Represents the percentage of Protestant, Roman Catholic and Non Determined persons within a group.
[2] Represents the percentage of those persons within a group for whom a community background i.e. Protestant and Roman Catholic was determined.

This method has been agreed by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on sending commissioners at the South Eastern education and library board on training courses since they were appointed. [131634]

Maria Eagle: I have been advised by the Chief Executive of the South Eastern Education and Library Board that since their appointment, the Board has incurred no costs through training courses for the commissioners.

Special Educational Needs

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much each education and library board spent on legal advice in relation to special educational needs cases in each of the last five years. [124545]

Maria Eagle: Each education and library board (ELB) spent the following amounts on legal advice in relation to special educational needs cases in the last five years. These exclude ELB solicitor costs which are included under ELB costs.

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
BELB	4,700	6,433	9,400	29,261	1,469
NEELB	500	500	500	500	500
SEELB	0	15,730	206,006	78,682	0
SELB	0	5,250	0	11,800	12,325
WELB	0	0	0	21,424	0

Speed Limits

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on which roads in Northern Ireland a 20 mile per hour speed limit is imposed; and what assessment he has made of the effect on road safety at each location of such a limit. [129587]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. McKibbin, dated 3 April 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding, on which roads in Northern Ireland a 20 mile per hour speed limit is imposed; and what assessment he has made of the effect on road safety at each location of such a limit.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

By way of background, I should explain that a 20 mph speed limit is not normally introduced on individual roads. It is more common to introduce 20 mph zones, which are a form of traffic calming in residential areas where an extensive network of streets is involved and where self-enforcing measures can be provided to reduce vehicle speeds to approximately 20mph. Where speeds have been reduced to 20 mph by self-enforcing measures, it is then possible to introduce a mandatory 20 mph limit. However, if the level of traffic calming measures is insufficient to reduce speeds to around 20 mph, then it is unlikely that the Police Service of Northern Ireland would agree to the introduction of a mandatory 20 mph limit.

Roads Service has implemented forty-eight 20 mph residential zones, the locations of which are listed in the following table. In addition, Roads Service is currently progressing a 20 mph zone for the Scrabo Estate, in Newtownards, through the approval stage.

Roads Service currently monitors the effectiveness of all traffic calming schemes, including 20 mph zones, and this information is published in our annual Road Safety Engineering Report, a copy of which can be obtained from our website at: http://www.roadsni.gov.uk/Publications/specific/RoadSafetyEngReport0405-0506.pdf or by writing to Mr Brian Maxwell, Network Traffic Telematics Manager, Traffic Information and Control Centre, 1b Airport Road, Belfast, BT3 9DY. For each scheme, the number of injury collisions occurring over the three year period following introduction of a scheme, is compared with the collision history for a similar period prior to the works.

At fourteen of the above forty-eight locations, where full monitoring data is available, there have been 88 fewer collisions involving an injury. This equates to a 32% reduction compared with a similar period before introduction of the 20 mph zones.

Town/City	Residential Area
Armagh	Lisanally Lane
Ballynahinch	Loughside Drive/Windmill Avenue—Carlisle Road/Windmill Gardens
Belfast	Anderstown area
	Ballymurphy area
	Mersey Street/Severn Street
	Riverdale Park
	Holylands area
	Taughmonagh
	Donegall Roads/The Village
	Ardoyne area
	Turf Lodge
	Ballynafeigh area
	Bloomfield area
Lisburn	Tonagh Estate
Portadown	Brownstown west
Strabane	Ballycolman/Beechmount Avenue
	Carlton Drive
	Lisnafin
	Springhill Park
	Five Acres
	Beldoo
	Laurel Drive
	Knocavoe Crescent
	St. Mary's Drive
Omagh	Strathroy Estate
	Meelmore Drive
Cookstown	Rathleen Avenue
	Greenvale Drive
	Sullenboy Park
Pomeroy	Parkview
Dungannon	Lisnahull Estate
	Braeside
	Windmill area
	Altmore Drive
	Meadowbank
	Woodburn Crescent
	Espey Park
Enniskillen	Derrin Road
	Corban Avenue
	Erne Drive
	Kilmacormick Estate
	Windmill Heights
	Coa Road area (Beech Hill, Cavandale, Scamore Drive and Willowvale)
Maghera	Craw fords burn
	Sunnyside
	Tamney Crescent
	Meetinghouse Avenue
Draperstown	Glenelly Villa's

Stillbirths: Miscarriage

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the procedures are for returning body parts to families following stillbirths and miscarriages; and where body parts are stored following stillbirths or miscarriages in Northern Ireland. [130696]

Paul Goggins: The Human Tissue Act 2004 set out a new legal framework for the removal, storage and use of tissue and organs from the deceased. The Act also established the Human Tissue Authority as the regulatory body for these matters.

The Authority published six codes of practice on the removal, storage, use and disposal of human tissue and organs, which were laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly on 19 July 2006 and notified to the HPSS by the acting chief medical officer in August. All trusts in Northern Ireland are required to comply with these codes. In addition, the DHSSPS has issued a "Careplan for Women who Experience a Miscarriage, Stillbirth or Neonatal Death" and explanatory booklets to accompany the consent forms that are used to record a family's wishes in respect of a hospital post mortem examination and the removal, use and disposal of human tissue.

Parents who have suffered a stillbirth or miscarriage are given oral and written information and asked whether they wish to have their baby or the tissue that was in the womb examined pathologically. This would involve a post mortem examination or histopathological examination in a laboratory. They will also be asked how they wish the remains to be disposed of, which can be arranged either by the hospital or the family.

Depending on the decisions taken by the family, the remains may be stored in a mortuary or pathology laboratory. All babies greater than 12 weeks' gestational size have their post mortem examination carried out in the Royal Hospital's mortuary. The return of a baby, foetus or miscarriage tissue to a family may be via a funeral director or directly to the family.

Suicide

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much money was spent on combating suicide in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [131626]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to provide information in the precise form requested. A large number of organisations, statutory and non-statutory have been involved in suicide prevention work during this period.

Prior to the publication of the Northern Ireland Suicide Prevention Strategy, "Protect Life A Shared Vision" on 30 October 2006, the issue of suicide prevention was tackled through implementation of the Promoting Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan. This strategy contains 10 specific actions relating to suicide prevention, including the promotion of coping skills and the development of a suicide awareness programme.

The funding for the Promoting Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan for each of the years since its launch in 2003 is set out in the following table.

	Funding (£)
2002-03	200,000
2003-04	300,000
2004-05	350,000
2005-06	600,000
2006-07	600,000

Following concern about an increasing number of local suicides, a separate suicide prevention strategy for Northern Ireland has recently been developed. The funding allocated specifically for the implementation of this new strategy is shown in the following table.

	Funding (£)
2006-07	1,900,000
2007-08 to 2011	3,060,000

The figures aforementioned do not incorporate substantial funding made available via mental health services, other Departments and/or contributions made by many community and voluntary organisations such as the Samaritans and Aware Defeat Depression, all of which contribute to suicide prevention.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many suicides were committed in each constituency in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [131629]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland by parliamentary constituency due to 'suicide and self-inflicted injury'[1] and 'undetermined injury whether accidentally or purposefully inflicted'[2] in each year between 1996 and 2005.

[1] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes X60-X84, Y87.0 for years 2001-05 and Ninth Revision codes E950-E959 for years 1985-2000.

[2] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes Y10-Y34, Y87.2 for years 2001-05 and Ninth Revision codes E980-E989 for years 1985-2000.

Number of registered deaths due to 'suicide and self-inflicted injury' and 'undetermined injury whether accidentally or purposefully inflicted' by parliamentary constituency, 1996-2005

	Registration year									
Area	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Belfast East	4	8	6	4	6	10	4	2	4	9
Belfast North	10	7	8	17	13	13	12	14	16	16
Belfast South	8	14	4	9	11	5	12	9	9	15
Belfast West	4	11	10	19	22	11	12	11	9	11
East Antrim	6	1	4	6	6	4	7	6	4	8
East Londonderry	4	4	12	8	4	5	9	8	6	4
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	6	4	10	5	7	11	7	6	8	19
Foyle	7	4	9	11	12	5	11	8	11	12
Lagan Valley	13	6	8	7	12	9	11	7	6	15
Mid Ulster	1	8	7	6	10	3	2	4	5	20
Newry and Armagh	12	21	13	11	7	10	14	7	10	15
North Antrim	13	9	10	7	9	9	11	10	8	9
North Down	7	9	5	4	12	12	9	4	6	7
South Antrim	8	4	3	4	9	8	20	9	6	12
South Down	14	4	7	8	14	8	12	13	10	14
Strangford	6	5	11	7	12	8	11	6	9	11
Upper Bann	12	12	14	8	9	16	10	15	11	10
West Tyrone	6	7	9	13	10	11	9	5	8	6
Unknown	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern Ireland	143	138	150	154	185	158	183	144	146	213

Tomography: Waiting Lists

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in each health trust in the Province are waiting for an MRI scan; what the average waiting time is for an MRI scan in each health trust; and what the longest waiting time has been over the last five years for an MRI scan in each health trust. [130703]

Paul Goggins: Information is given in the following table.

Trust	Total number of patients waiting for an MRI scan at 23 March 2007	Average waiting time for an MRI scan in days at 23 March 2007	Longest wait for an MRI scan in days during the last five years
Altnagelvin	563	98	[1]252
Belfast City Hospital	993	99	[2]193
Craigavon	178	126	n/a
Greenpark	1,106	60	300
Royal	558	60	[3]180
Ulster	292	60	224
United	225	31	84

n/a = Figure not available.
1 Figures for Altnagelvin are not available; prior to June 2004, therefore this figure relates to the period between June 2004 and March 2007.
2 Figures for Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust are not available prior to the 2006-07 year, therefore the longest wait figure is at 23 March 2007.
3 The longest wait figure for the Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trusts relates to the position at 23 March 2007.
Source:
HPSS Trusts

Data produced from the Department's performance management system indicate that as at the end of March 2007, there were no patients waiting more than 26 weeks for any Imaging Service in HPSS Trusts in Northern Ireland.

Translation Services

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 564W, on translation services, which languages were involved; how much was spent on translation costs for each language in each year; what the nature was of the services provided; and what the reasons were for the percentage year-on-year change in translation costs. [129639]

Maria Eagle: Detailed breakdowns of translation costs for each Northern Ireland Government Department, its associated agencies and non-departmental public bodies for each of the last four years are provided in the following tables.

Breakdown of translations 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06

£

2002-03

Department	Total 2002-03	Irish	Ulster-Scots	Ethnic[1]	Sign	Other[2]
DHSSPS	95,620.11	89,152.86	0.00	6,467.25	0.00	0.00
NIO	123,150.11	679.36	413.00	121,790.75	85.00	182.00
DE	98,993.67	35,521.79	0.00	58,497.63	599.70	4,374.55
DETI	987.68	176.02	0.00	811.66	0.00	0.00
DEL	4,726.86	655.00	0.00	719.90	3,351.96	0.00
OFMDFM	43,176.87	26,208.99	7,415.50	2,522.00	1,528.00	5,502.38
DOE	[illegible].50	154.50	0.00	0.00	142.00	0.00
DSD	[illegible].86	57.50	0.00	16,836.02	1,290.34	0.00
DFP	[illegible].17	177.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DCAL	[illegible].86	38,061.61	149.85	495.00	1,012.40	0.00
DARD	[illegible].49	310.89	0.00	670.60	0.00	0.00
DRD	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]	[3]
Total	426,013.18	191,155.69	7,978.35	208,810.81	8,009.40	10,058.93

2003-04

£

Department	Total 2003-04	Irish	Ulster-Scots	Ethnic[1]	Sign	Other[2]
NIO	115,001.83	687.38	0.00	111,583.79	2,730.66	0.00
DE	119,929.38	22,963.22	69.95	96,780.01	104.20	12.00
DARD	1,305.36	76.59	0.00	1,175.78	0.00	52.99
DEL	11,039.00	0.00	1,028.00	9,028.70	104.20	878.10
DETI	3,697.68	2,075.93	0.00	523.93	120.11	977.71
DFP	1,898.45	1,060.13	0.00	838.32	0.00	0.00
DHSSPS	31,466.55	29,305.80	0.00	2,160.75	0.00	0.00
DOE	74.95	74.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DRD	539.04	195.00	134.04	210.00	0.00	0.00
DSD	53,913.74	482.50	0.00	52,556.86	874.38	0.00
OFMDFM	22,505.61	4,764.15	354.00	1,375.51	15,734.65	277.30
DCAL	53,652.58	51,593.12	444.50	1,350.00	264.96	0.00
Total	415,024.17	113,278.77	2,030.49	277,583.65	19,933.16	2,198.10

2004-05

Department	Total 2004-05	Irish	Ulster-Scots	Ethnic[1]	Sign	£ Other[2]
NIO	257,878.70	2,058.69	558.06	158,670.32	4,161.52	92,430.11
DE	37,416.37	24,554.49	0.00	9,800.30	3,061.58	0.00
DARD	1,370.98	311.90	0.00	1,059.08	0.00	0.00
DEL	12,557.82	0.00	0.00	50.00	2,654.63	9,853.19
DETI	3,603.36	309.97	45.50	1,740.01	1,507.88	0.00
DFP	1,958.86	625.06	295.54	715.11	102.34	220.81
DHSSPS	13,515.01	9,592.76	0.00	152.75	0.00	3,769.50
DOE	724.02	109.02	225.00	390.00	0.00	0.00
DRD	3,798.99	338.24	0.00	0.00	3,108.24	352.51
DSD	112,612.59	251.39	0.00	98,092.67	3,154.70	11,113.83
OFMDFM	1,695.36	494.36	0.00	1,195.00	0.00	6.00
DCAL	37,403.23	28,575.59	568.71	5,425.00	2,833.93	0.00
Total	484,535.29	67,221.47	1,692.81	277,290.24	20,584.82	117,745.95

2005-06

Department	Total 2005-06	Irish	Ulster- Scots	Ethnic[1]	Sign	£ Other[2]
NIO	527,454.57	480.76	0.00	510,893.87	16,079.94	0.00
DE	37,827.10	19,349.27	0.00	14,094.27	3,559.65	823.91
DARD	5,076.85	3,192.16	95.89	1,590.00	0.00	198.80
DEL	232,064.00	0.00	0.00	230,841.00	1,223.00	0.00
DETI	7,510.19	390.89	0.00	5,430.59	1,611.17	77.54
DFP	1,498.03	899.73	0.00	180.00	356.50	61.80
DHSSPS	27,262.66	8,974.00	0.00	17,545.66	0.00	743.00
DOE	16,330.78	7,290.06	7,931.62	309.10	800.00	0.00
DRD	546.04	436.04	0.00	110.00	0.00	0.00
DSD	309,871.19	0.00	0.00	308,602.40	561.00	707.79
OFMDFM	24,081.60	2,740.77	515.36	15,210.47	4,291.60	1,323.40
DCAL	25,183.92	20,801.17	783.40	1,535.90	532.30	1,531.15
Total	1,214,706.93	64,554.85	9,326.27	1,106,343.26	29,015.16	5,467.39

[1] Ethnic refers to translations other than English, Irish and Ulster-Scots.
[2] Other refers to Braille and interpretation costs.
[3] Nil return.

It is not possible to define all the reasons for the year-on-year changes in the costs of translations or to supply a comprehensive breakdown of the nature of the services provided. However, it is apparent that the volume of Irish language translations has fallen following the dissolution of the Assembly while EU enlargement and the increased immigrant population has seen a significant increase in the volume of ethnic language translations. The level of Ulster-Scots translations has remained fairly static over the period.

Valuation and Lands Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what Gateway Reviews have *(a)* been produced and *(b)* are under way of projects by the Valuation and Lands Agency. [130560]

Mr. Hanson: Gateway Reviews have *(a)* been produced for the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal Implementation Project and the Public Interface Project, and *(b)* will be produced for the Land and Property Services programme.

Victims: Finance

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding was provided to each victims group in the Province in each year since 1994. [130694]

Mr. Hanson: Records show that funding detailed in the following table has been allocated to organisations involved in providing support for victims between April 1998 and March 2007. Year by year breakdowns of these figures is not available; nor are details of funding prior to 1998. In both cases this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In addition to the amounts shown, victims' groups may apply for funding from any programme or scheme, such as the District Council Community Relations Programme or European Union funding through the Local Strategy Partnerships, for which they can satisfy the relevant eligibility criteria.

Organisation Providing Support for Victims	Amount allocated (£)
123 House	158,746
A Peace Cantata	4,430
Aisling Centre	225,982
Alanna Consultancy	1,790
An Crann	63,500
Ardoyne Commemoration	14,900
Armagh Voluntary Welfare Group	28,296
Ashton Community Trust	2,330,673

Organisation Providing Support for Victims	Amount allocated (£)
Association for Family Therapy NI	6,100
Ballybone, Belfast	2,100
Ballymoney District Partnership (Victims)	16,000
Ballymurphy Centre	568,810
Bannside Community Group	23,994
Barnardo's	75,050
Base 2	25,375
Befriending and Counselling	4,397
Belfast Cognitive Therapy Centre	56,215
Breaking the Silence	4,998
Care in Crisis	1,964
Community Action for Locally Managed Stress (CALMS)	878,520
Centre for Creative Energy, Londonderry	11,520
Cheshire Regimental Association	290
Claudy	12,027
Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum	2,590
Coiste na n-Iarchimí	2,404
Co Tyrone Frontier Relief Fund	2,000
Coleraine/Ballymoney UDR	118,060
Colin Community Counselling Project	3,526
Colleague Support Group	3,100
Columba Community	223,663
Combat Stress	6,500
Community Council	2,240
Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	12,500
Community Relations Council	38,357
Comrades Support Group	4,760
Conflict Trauma Resource Centre	265,787
Contact Youth	156,461
Conway Education Centre	2,500
Cookstown Colleague Support	2,165
Corpus Christi Services	566,439
Corrymeela Community	7,500
Cost of the Troubles Study	97,251
Crossfire Trust	17,214
CRUSE (Foyle)	35,000
CRUSE Bereavement (NI)	74,915
CRUSE Bereavement Care (Belfast)	37,587
CRUSE (Causeway)	2,500
Cum arm Tar Abhaile	22,171
Cunamh	751,084
Dairy Farm Jobclub	111,394
Democratic Dialogue	7,485
Derry and Raphoe Action	347,229
Derry City Council	2,500
Derry Well Women	172,986
Disabled Police Officers Association (DPOA)	190,395
Divis Centre	1,005
East Belfast Mission	1,560
Eastern Health & Social Services Board Trauma Advisory Panel	158,567
Families of the Displaced, Dispersed and Disappeared (FODDD)	194,969
Families Achieving Change Together (FACT)	647,634
Families Acting for Innocent Relatives (FAIR)	1,358,142
Families for Truth and Justice	800
Family Trauma Centre	704,062
Fermanagh College	69,600
Fermanagh South Tyrone Terrorist Victims Association	96,738
Fermanagh Voluntary Welfare Support Group	9,912
Firinne	347,783
Friends of WAVE	2,304
Give Innocent Victims Equality (GIVE)	5,200
Glencree LIVE Programme—The Restorick Group	750
Greater Belfast Community Network	84,500
Greater Twinbrook and Poleglass Community Forum	10,000
Healing Through Remembering	10,000
Help and Advice with Victims Every Need (HAVEN)	212,242
Holy Trinity	237,611
Holywell Trust	16,329
Homes United by Ruthless Terrorism (HURT)	480,729
HOPE	500
Innocence, Truth and Justice	980
Institute for Counselling and Personal Development (ICPD)	744,225
Interact	5,000
Interchurch Group on Faith and Politics	600
Irish Peace Institute	11,000
Koram Centre	254,938
Ladies Friendship Group	4,075
Lenadoon Community Counselling Project	300,238
Lifeline	26,500
Lifespring Health and Healing	10,000
Lifeways Psychotherapy and Counselling Centre	333,793
Lisburn Community Relations Network	1,200
Lisb urn Prisoners Support Project	133,423
Lisburn YMCA	1,200
Loughgall Truth and Justice Campaign	7,200
Lower North Belfast Community Group	2,000
Lurgan Welfare Support Group	4,216
Make Your Mark	57,838
Mid Ulster Survivors Trust	1,000
Mourne Action for Survivors of Terrorism (MAST)	229,191
Newforge Brunch Club	5,004
New Life Counselling Service	464,679
Newry and Mourne Voluntary Welfare Group	12,762
Nexus Institute	51,441
NI Association for Mental Health	46,702
NI Memorial Fund	8,367,288
NI Music Therapy Trust	94,969
NI Prison Service	600
NICRA	1,000
North and West Belfast Trust	20,000
Northern Health and Social Services Board Trauma Advisory Panel	155,158
North Ulster Victims Support Network	15,094
NI Centre for Trauma and Transformation (NICTT)	2,000,000
NI Terrorist Victims Together	3,050
NOVA	584,175
Omagh Independent Advice Services	31,657
Omagh Support and Self Help Group	217,747

Organisation Providing Support for Victims	Amount allocated (£)
Passionist Youth	94,800
Pat Finucane Centre	21,118
Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust	20,000
Positive Action	91,328
Prison Service Trust	64,160
RAFT-Restorative Action Following the Troubles	191,095
Regimental Association UDR[1]	134,816
Relatives For Justice	1,268,341
Royal Artillery Association	2,232
Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID)	138,547
RUC GC Association[1]	25,649
Rural Network	205,345
Seeds of Hope	2,500
Shankill Stress and Trauma Group	706,422
Sligo Presbyterian	7,500
SOLAS Victim Support	111,479
South Deny Ex-Prisoners Association	2,500
South Down Action for Healing Wounds (SDAHW)	341,387
South East Fermanagh Foundation	429,513
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme	15,740
South Tyrone Voluntary Welfare Group	6,140
South West Community Victims	10,000
South/North Armagh Victims Encouraging Recognition (SAVER/NAVER)	952,788
Southern Health and Social Services Board Trauma Advisory Panel	179,149
Sperrin Lakeland Trust	70,649
Springhill Community House	279,896
Springvale Training	195,192
Stepping Stone, Craigavon	55,000
Stewartstown and District Support Group	3,260
Strabane Befriending and Counselling Association	311,609
Streetbeat Youth Project	215,532
Sub Committee for Victims	368,112
Support, Training, Education, Employment, Research (STEER) Mental Health	149,119
Survivors of Trauma	902,184
Tar Anall	115,300
Tar Isteach	190,993
Tara Counselling and Personal Development Company Ltd.	923,597
TEAR	11,579
The Bloody Sunday Trust	84,765
The Church's Ministry of Healing	18,000
The Cross Group	22,745
The Ely Centre	631,893
The Phoenix Group	35,447
The Royal British Legion (Upperlands Branch)	2,000
The Samaritans, Belfast	8,000
The Samaritans, Coleraine	7,000
The Wider Circle	265,527
Threshold	3,000
Towards Healing and Understanding	5,500
Trauma Recovery Network	1,235
Tullycarnet Victims Support Group	5,400
UDR Association[1]	18,667
Ulster Special Constabulary Association[1]	50,256
United Services Club	133,816
Victims Support (NI)	52,000
Victims and Survivors Trust (VAST)	514,181
VOICE	121,542
Voices Women's Group	17,054
WAVE[1]	5,399,569
West Belfast Cross Community Partnership	48,700
West Tyrone Voice (WTV)	820,085
Western Enterprise Social Legal and Educational Victims Trust	3,950
Western Health and Social Services Board Trauma Advisory Panel	197,852
Widows Mite	4,840
Women Together	11,641
Yarn and Darn	1,096
Yes!	5,000
Total	43,962,152

[1] These organisations have a number of branches and the funding for individual branches has been combined for the purposes of the table.

Note:

The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (formerly NIVT) also received £1,123,324 through the EU Special Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace I) which supported victims of violence. The Foundation allocated these funds in support of a number of projects for both ex-prisoners and victims. Persons from these groups could benefit from the same project and it is not possible to disaggregate the assistance between the two groups.

Voluntary Organisations: Health Services

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to ensure that voluntary organisations providing services for publicly funded health bodies in Northern Ireland receive full recovery of costs. [130687]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety recognises the vital role played by the voluntary and community sector in the delivery of health care services across Northern Ireland. The Government also acknowledge, as indicated in their response to "Investing Together"—"Positive Steps"—that voluntary organisations must be able to recover full overhead costs for delivering a contracted service. The Department is working in partnership with the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Department for Social Development to develop this approach.

Water Treatment: Ballyhalbert

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the Ballyhalbert waste and water treatment works contract will start; and if he will make a statement. [130876]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Katharine Bryan, dated 31 March 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about when the Ballyhalbert waste and water treatment works contract will start; and if he will make a statement (130876). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

Water Service recently completed an appraisal study of the treatment needs for the Ards Peninsula and a project to improve the wastewater treatment facilities in Ballyhalbert is currently included in its Capital Works Programme with a commencement date in 2012. However, an interim solution with a commencement date towards the end of 2007 is currently being considered.

William Frazer

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recommendation the District Commander of Armagh District Command Unit of the Police Service of Northern Ireland made to the Northern Ireland Office on the application for a personal protection weapon made by Mr. William Frazer of Families Acting for Innocent Victims. [118912]

Paul Goggins: Responsibility for the issue of personal protection weapons rests with the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. In the event of an appeal, the matter is considered by the Secretary of State. While it is not appropriate to disclose information on individual cases, if the hon. Member wishes to write to me on behalf of Mr. Frazer I would be happy to consider his inquiry.

Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the outcome of the inquiry into the escape from Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre on 22 February 2007; and what action has been taken to prevent further escapes. [130919]

Mr. Hanson: An investigation into the escape, conducted by the centre director, concluded that a security weakness in the design of a vehicle access gate at the rear of the centre, which enabled it to be scaled by the young person, was to blame. This has since been rectified.

Furthermore, the centre director has completed a security survey of all external and internal areas of the centre.

Written Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to answer question 108009, tabled on 5 December 2006 by the hon. Member for Portsmouth South. [121199]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 21 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 785W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he will answer question 113811, on public sector pensions, tabled on 5 January 2007 by the hon. Member for Yeovil. [121213]

Mr. Hain: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 984W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 625W, on advertising, if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract between his Department and the newspaper in relation to the *Guardian* supplement on Extending Boundaries. [129870]

Mrs. McGuire: Buying newspaper advertising space is carried out for my Department by the Central Office of Information through a commercial supplier as part of wider media buying activities. There was no specific contract between the Department and the *Guardian* newspaper for this piece of work, only between the Department and COI, as part of a larger project.

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of calls made to the benefit fraud hotline led to *(a)* investigation and *(b)* conviction of individuals named by callers in each year since 1997. [116590]

Mr. Plaskitt: The National Benefit Fraud Hotline is very cost effective—last year it cost nearly £1 million to run but identified £21.4 million in recoverable overpayments. Between April 1999 and March 2006, 4,233 people have been convicted as a result of calls made to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline. A proportion of the 110,485 people who have received a penalty or caution over the same period will also have been initially reported via the Benefit Fraud Hotline but this information has not been collected.

Information regarding calls made, and the proportion of such calls that led to investigation and conviction is only available from April 2004. Available information regarding the number of calls actually answered from 1997 is in the following table.

	Calls answered	*Referrals for investigation as a proportion of calls answered (percentage)*	*Convictions as a proportion of calls answered (percentage)*
1997-98	188,038	[1]	[1]
1998-99	170,032	[1]	[1]
1999-2000	162,067	49.05	0.20
2000-01	208,201	48.68	0.23
2001-02	205,999	52.99	0.34
2002-03	159,290	56.51	0.44
2003-04	211,054	53.55	0.29
2004-05	199,004	55.22	0.31
2005-06	211,599	72.47	0.34

[1] Not recorded

Source:
National Benefit Fraud Hotline and Fraud Information by Sector system.

Child Support Agency

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in meeting the targets for the Child Support Agency set

out: in the Child Support Agency Business Plan 2006-07; which targets he expects will be *(a)* met and *(b)* not met; and if he will make a statement. [128435]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 21 March 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 16 April 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what progress has been made in meeting the targets for the Child Support Agency set out in the Child Support Agency Business Plan 2006-07; which targets he expects will be (a) met and (b) not met; and if he will make a statement.

The Child Support Agency has six targets set by the Secretary of State for 2006-07, which were published in the Agency's Business Plan, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link: www.csa.gov.uk/pdf/english/reports/plan0607.pdf.

The Agency's current performance against these targets is published every three months in tables 2.1, 3, 7.2, 8.1,12, and 17 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics.

Latest performance to December 2006 is currently available on the Internet via the following link: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_dec06.asp and a hard copy is in the House of Commons Library.

The final assessment of how the Agency has performed against these targets, including achievements from January to March, will be published in the March 2007 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* old scheme and *(b)* new scheme Child Support Agency cases were cleared in each month of the last two years for which figures are available. [122922]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 23 February 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 3 April 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many *(a)* old scheme and *(b)* new scheme Child Support Agency cases were cleared in each month of the last two years for which figures are available.

The information requested is presented in the attached table.

The clearance process includes all work undertaken on applications for child maintenance until one of the following conditions is met: a parent with care has been identified as claiming Good Cause or is subject to a Reduced Benefit Decision; the application is identified as being a change of circumstances on an existing case; the application has been closed; or for old scheme cases a maintenance assessment has been carried out and for new scheme cases, a payment arrangement between the parent with care and the non-resident parent is in place.

The Agency holds only a negligible number of completely unprocessed applications. The amount of work required to achieve clearance, and the length of time involved, varies considerably depending on, amongst other things, the circumstances of the parents and how readily they cooperate with the Agency. The work undertaken by the Agency's New Client Teams extends far beyond simply clearing new applications through the computer system. A significant proportion of the work undertaken by the Agency's New Client Teams consists of setting up the first maintenance payments to the parent with care, and retaining responsibility for this growing caseload until the first fully compliant, on time payment is made by the non-resident parent.

In addition, under the Operational Improvement Plan, the Agency is committed to reducing the number of uncleared applications. The number of uncleared applications fell by 13 per cent. in the 12 months prior to December 2006, as the Agency made progress in clearing significant numbers of older, more complex cases. These cased often require a great deal more work than other applications and this is reflected in the increasing average age of cleared cases.

For future reference, information on the number of new scheme clearances is publicly available in the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS), a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_dec06.asp.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

The number of clearances each month between January 2005 and December 2006

Month ending	*New scheme*	*Old scheme*	*Total*
2005			
January	20,400	4,500	24,900
February	22,600	4,400	27,100
March	26,800	4,000	30,800
April	25,100	4,200	29,300
May	27,400	6,500	33,800
June	26,100	6,200	32,200
July	26,500	5,200	31,800
August	25,500	4,000	29,500
September	24,500	4,700	29,100
October	25,200	5,600	30,900
November	32,800	3,800	36,600
December	27,100	3,000	30,100
2006			
January	28,800	3,100	31,900
February	29,900	3,400	33,300
March	34,000	3,600	37,600
April	29,200	2,700	31,900
May	26,500	2,200	28,800
June	28,700	2,300	31,000
July	30,700	2,400	33,100
August	26,400	2,400	28,800
September	25,800	3,600	29,400
October	29,000	4,100	33,100
November	23,700	1,900	25,600
December	19,900	1,300	21,200

Notes to table:

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. The increase in the number of old scheme clearances in September and October 2006 was as a result of work being carried out to clear a number of cases that had previously not been on the system.
3. The definition of a clearance is not the same on the old and new schemes. A clearance on the old scheme occurs when an assessment has been carried out, a case is closed, the parent with care (PWC) is identified as claiming Good Cause or the PWC is subject to a Reduced Benefit Decision. For a new scheme case to be cleared it must also have a maintenance collection schedule set up following a calculation.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date he expects all old cases of the Child Support Agency to have been brought under the new system; and if he will make a statement. [124684]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 16 April 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, on what date he expects all old cases of the Child Support Agency to have been brought under the new system; and if he will make a statement. [124684]

The problems encountered by the Agency following the launch of the Reforms in 2003 are well documented and were widely publicised at the time. As a result of these problems the decision to bulk migrate and convert the caseload was deferred, although from the launch of the Reforms in March 2003 new rules applications to child support have continued to trigger the reactive migration of old rules cases from CSCS and following migration relevant cases have been reactively converted from old to new rules.

The child maintenance White Paper "A new system of child maintenance" sets out radical and far-reaching proposals for the wholesale reform of the child maintenance system. Box 3.1 on page 54, details the expected timetable for transition to the new system.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Children: Poverty

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate how many children would be lifted out of poverty if a 70 per cent. employment rate for lone parents whose youngest child is aged 11 years or over was to be achieved. [124378]

Mr. Jim Murphy: An accurate estimate of the impact on child poverty cannot be given. This is because the employment rate for lone parents with a youngest child aged 11 years or over is currently 69 per cent. The relatively small change involved in raising this to 70 per cent. creates problems of sampling error, preventing accurate estimates of impact.

Council Tax Benefits: Carlisle

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners living in the Carlisle City Council area are in receipt of council tax benefit. [131347]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at August 2006, there were 4,310 council tax benefit recipients aged 60 and over in Carlisle local authority.

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The case load figure is rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures exclude any second adult rebate cases.
4. 'Aged 60 and over' is defined as benefit units where the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 and over. Therefore figures will contain some claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged over 60 years.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. case load stock-count taken in August 2006.

Departmental Fixed Assets

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which fixed assets his Department sold for more than £10,000 in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; and what the (i) sale value, (ii) purchaser and (iii) date of sale was of each asset. [110800]

Mrs. McGuire: Fixed assets the Department has sold for more than £10,000 are as follows:

(a) in 2004-05

Asset description	*Asset category*	*(i) Sale value (£)*	*(ii) Purchaser*	*(iii) Date of sale*
YG02JFE Honda CRV SE 2ltr	Vehicle	10,475.12	Private buyer	March 2005
NL03VNB Volvo V40 1800	Vehicle	10,850.00	Sold at auction	October 2004

(b) in 2005-06

Asset description	*Asset category*	*(i) Sale value (£)*	*(ii) Purchaser*	*(iii) Date of sale*
NA54FSY Toyota Avensis 2ltr	Vehicle	10,735.69	Private buyer	October 2005
NG53AXR Toyota Avensis 2ltr	Vehicle	11,000.00	Sold at auction	May 2005
NL04KWY Toyota Avensis 2ltr	Vehicle	11,465.30	Private buyer	July 2005
NH53FKA Toyota Avensis 2ltr	Vehicle	11,650.00	Sold at auction	June 2005
ND04JRV Toyota Avensis 2ltr	Vehicle	11,650.00	Sold at auction	August 2005
FJ04RAX Nissan Xtrail 2.2	Vehicle	11,950.00	Sold at auction	February 2006
NM04VVL Toyota Avensis T spirit	Vehicle	13,400.00	Sold at auction	June 2005
FG54ZSW Peugeot 407 SW Estate	Vehicle	13,500.00	Sold at auction	May 2005
Ranmoor Hall, Belgrave road, Ranmoor, Sheffield, S10 3LL	Land and buildings	4,459,766.19	Sold to private buyer at auction	October 2005
Storey street, Hull	Land	575,394.39	Private buyer	March 2006

Departmental Offices

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what area of office space his Department and its agencies used in central London in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2006; and if he will make a statement. [112186]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions does not own any land or property as DWP has an outsourced estate via a PFI contract known as PRIME. The majority of the DWP estate has been sold (freehold, feuhold and long leasehold interests) or transferred (short leasehold interests) to Land Securities Trillium. The proceeds were released to HM Treasury in April 1998 (for the original DSS estate) and further in December 2003 when PRIME was expanded to include the former ES estate.

While DWP does not own any land/property the Department does occupy a number of buildings in Central London :

(a) During 2004 the NIA (net internal area) occupied was 75,688 sq m

(b) By December 2006 the NIA occupied was 66,068 sq m.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the percentage change in *(a)* staff and *(b)* staff with disabilities in his Department has been since 1 April 2002; and if he will make a statement; [118764]

(2) what the change in the proportion of his Department's staff with disabilities has been since 1 April 2002; and if he will make a statement; [118765]

(3) what steps he is taking to seek to reverse the decline in the proportion of his Department's employees who are disabled. [123166]

Mrs. McGuire: There has been an 8.53 per cent. reduction in staff headcount[1] between 31 March 2002 and 30 November 2006. There has been a 13.53 per cent. reduction in the number of disabled staff in the same period.

The proportion of staff with disabilities has reduced from 5.45 per cent. to 5.36 per cent. between 31 March 2002 and 30 November 2006, a reduction of 0.09 per cent.

Current figures are based on the proportion of staff who have voluntarily declared themselves as being disabled. However, we are aware that not all disabled staff declare their disability for departmental records, and the true figure may be higher than the figures shown. For example, the 2006 DWP Staff Survey (which is completed anonymously) showed that 13 per cent. of respondents considered themselves to have a long-standing health condition or disability.

Additionally, in 2002 the proportion of disabled staff was calculated as a proportion of all staff. However, following revised guidance from the Cabinet Office we now exclude staff for whom we have no disability status declaration. The figures for 2006 therefore exclude staff who have chosen not to declare their disability status.

The roll-out of a new computer system by the end of April this year will mean that we have a more accurate assessment of the numbers of disabled people working within the Department. As we roll out we are asking each member of staff to check the personal information we hold about them. A joint communications exercise with departmental trade unions to highlight the importance of individuals providing this information has also been planned.

The Department for Work and Pensions published its Disability Equality Schemes on 1 December 2006. These set out the Department's approach to the Disability Equality Duty (introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005), including its approach as an employer. In particular, this includes our arrangements for gathering information on the effect of our policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of our disabled employees and making use of that information.

When we recruit externally, all advertisements contain the "Positive About Disabled People Two Ticks Symbol", and the Department ensures that all applicants who declare a disability are given reasonable adjustments at each stage of the selection process to ensure they are competing on a level playing field.

When disabled applicants are successful, all relevant adjustments are made, in consultation with the individual and expert advisers where appropriate. Managers keep under review any particular requirements that disabled employees may have, in line with the "Two Ticks" commitments.

Activity to improve the numbers of employees of under-represented groups, including disabled people, within the Senior Civil Service is under way—and further action is planned. In line with other central Government Departments, these are detailed within our 10 Point Plan and include placing adverts and articles in the specialist press and ensuring that panel members have had more training in recruitment best practice, especially diversity and equality.

[1] For reporting consistency "Headcount" refers to all staff in the permanent and fixed term staff populations. It excludes casual staff and those who are unpaid. The statistics for DWP exclude The Rent Service and Health and Safety Executive.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what databases are controlled by his Department and its agencies; and what percentage of the data in each database he estimates is inaccurate or out of date. [124023]

Mrs. McGuire: It is not possible to provide this information without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Department has several hundred IT systems, each of which has a database of some form. The accuracy and currency of the data held within them will vary depending on the purpose of the system.

Systems which are used in the identification and control of customer records should be up to date at the point that a citizen last contacted us to inform us of their circumstance (or change of circumstance). The information is based on what is provided by the citizen and verified where appropriate.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how often his Department's databases are updated with the revised details of individuals who have moved house. [130597]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The Department for Work and Pensions has updated its records around 18.5 million times as a result of people changing address.

Departmental Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to ensure his Department's economical use of paper. [128000]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP procurement policies require open competition and that these meet the cross-Government sustainable development targets. These policies recognise our responsibility to achieve value for money, make prudent use of natural resources and purchase sustainable goods and services.

The Department competitively tenders for the best value for money on office paper and print products and has mandated the maximum percentage use of recycled office and printing paper. The products we use have levels of waste content that meet targets and are from sustainable and renewable sources.

In addition, DWP staff are encouraged to reduce printing and photocopying, to use the duplexing facilities available on our office printers and photocopiers and to use the recycling facilities available in our offices for waste paper and many other recyclable items.

DWP fully supports the cross-Government sustainable operations targets, launched last year, which include commitments to reduce waste and increase recycling.

Disability Living Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of income support entitled lone parent households receive disability living allowance for a child. [129801]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at August 2006, 5.1 per cent. of lone parents in receipt of income support also received disability living allowance for a child. This is the most recent figure available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of looked-after children are entitled to disability living allowance. [129802]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested.

As at August 2006, the most recent date for which figures are available, 2.6 per cent. of children under 16 years of age were entitled claimants of disability living allowance.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average age is of first award for under 18-year-olds entitled to disability living allowance. [129803]

Mrs. McGuire: As at August 2006, the most recent available figure, the average age at first award for disability living allowance for those aged under 18 years of age, in Great Britain, is seven years.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in receipt of income support receive disability living allowance for a child in each of the last five years, broken down by component. [129804]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Income support claimants in Great Britain, who receive disability living allowance (DLA) for a child, by component: as at August each year

	Receiving care and mobility components of DLA	*Receiving care component of DLA*	*Receiving mobility component of DLA*
2002	49,900	30,600	1,600
2003	52,600	30,700	2,000
2004	47,400	27,100	1,500
2005	41,600	23,800	1,300
2006	38,000	20,100	900

Notes:
1. Figures have been uprated to 100 per cent. WPLS totals
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length is of entitlement to disability living allowance awarded for a child. [129807]

Mrs. McGuire: As at August 2006, the most recent available figure, the average fixed award of disability living allowance to those claimants under 16 years of age was three and a half years.

Employment

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's jobs are located in Tamworth constituency. [129991]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions currently employs 52 staff (equating to 42.8 full-time equivalent posts) in the Tamworth constituency area.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs. Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that claimants of the employment support allowance will be *(a)* made aware of the benefits to which they may be entitled and *(b)* signposted to benefits advice when appropriate; [129051]

(2) if he will introduce performance measures against which changes in *(a)* awareness and *(b)* take-up of other benefits by employment support allowance claimants can be measured. [129052]

Mr. Jim Murphy: It is right that people should have full access to information on the financial and other help available to them. We are continually reviewing the training of our staff to ensure that they are equipped to provide a good service to our customers.

We already provide extensive background information on the full range of benefits, statutory entitlements and how to go about claiming them. We have made much progress in rationalising our leaflets and the information on our websites, and increasing the accuracy and availability of it.

We have no current plans to introduce performance measures against which changes in *(a)* awareness and *(b)* take-up of other benefits by Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants can be measured. However, as the implementation of the new ESA progresses we will continue working with all our stakeholders to ensure that relevant information gets to the right people, at the right time, and in the right way.

Employment Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants in Employment Zone programmes found work and maintained their job with help for over 13 weeks in each month since April 2000. [126309]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Since Employment Zones started in April 2000, 82,240 jobs have been gained. Of those moving into work through the programme, around 80 per cent. have moved into sustained employment lasting 13 weeks or more.

The information on the number of jobs gained in each month, and the number of those jobs lasting at least 13 weeks is in the following table.

Employment Zones

	Number of jobs gained	*Of which, lasted at least 13 weeks*
2000		
April	20	10
May	100	90
June	260	230
July	290	240
August	500	440
September	780	660
October	800	660
November	920	760
December	880	640
2001		
January	920	750
February	1,090	890
March	1,710	1,370
April	1,470	1,150
May	1,340	1,060
June	1,700	1,260
July	1,260	1,000
August	1,470	1,150
September	1,350	1,000
October	1,310	950
November	1,430	1,050
December	710	490
2002		
January	740	550
February	900	680
March	1,250	980
April	980	740
May	1,180	860
June	940	700
July	950	690
August	1,150	870
September	1,050	790
October	1,020	770
November	1,230	830
December	640	430
2003		
January	800	580
February	870	660
March	1,030	780
April	880	680
May	1,080	820
June	1,110	810
July	990	750
August	1,240	900
September	1,160	830
October	1,340	920
November	950	700
December	600	400
2004		
January	760	580
February	860	660
March	910	720
April	1,010	780
May	880	650
June	910	680
July	1,180	890
August	1,000	790
September	1,170	930
October	1,450	1,140
November	1,090	850
December	730	560
2005		
January	750	640
February	970	800
March	970	780
April	1,220	1,040
May	1,030	860
June	940	790
July	1,430	1,240
August	1,020	870
September	1,610	1,360
October	1,290	1,110
November	1,240	1,070
December	940	800
2006		
January	840	740
February	980	860
March	1,360	1,210
April	1,040	930
May	1,200	1060
June	1,540	1,390

Employment Zones

	Number of jobs gained	*Of which, lasted at least 13 weeks*
July	1,240	1,160
August	1,210	1,150
September	1,840	1,760
October	1,280	1,250

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data is for jobs not individuals.
3. Data is to October 2006.

Source:
Information Directorate, DWP.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cumulative cost to his Department has been of the Restart Programme. [125841]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 March 2007]*: The full information requested is not available.

The total cost of the Restart Programme and associated activities in Jobcentre Plus, over the financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06, is estimated at £70 million.

The data for Restart has been supplied by using Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Information (ABI). No information is available before 2003-04.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals who attended the mandatory jobseeker's challenge were placed in employment within *(a)* one month, *(b)* three months and *(c)* six months of undertaking the course since its inception; [129388]

(2) how many unemployed individuals have attended the new Government pilot scheme, the mandatory jobseeker's challenge. [129389]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Jobseeker's Mandatory Activity (JMA) pilot is a two year pilot which started in April 2006 and is operating in 10 Jobcentre Plus districts. In pilot locations, people aged 25 and over who have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance or national insurance credits only for more than six months are required to attend a three day JMA course. The course helps to build confidence, increase motivation and improve job search skills and is followed by three interviews with a Personal Adviser.

Between April 2006 and February 2007, 17,537 people had completed the JMA course. Separate data is not available for those attending but not completing the course.

Information on those entering work one month, three months and six months after participating in JMA can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Results from the pilot will be included in an evaluation which will be published next year.

Employment Schemes: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the planned expenditure is for the Jobcentre Plus Change Programme; what the aims of the Programme are; what the targets are for the Programme; and how many staff the Programme employs. [124079]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 16 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the planned expenditure is for the Jobcentre Plus Change Programme; what the aims of the Programme are; what the targets are for the Programme; and how many staff the Programme employs. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The budget allocated for the Jobcentre Plus Change Programme is £545 million for 2006-7 and £594 million for 2007-8. There are currently 360 staff employed on projects within the programme.

The aims of the Jobcentre Plus Change Programme are to:

deliver strategic change to support the Government's Welfare to Work priorities, including introducing the new Employment and Support Allowance for people with a health condition or disability;

support business efficiency by changes to processes and systems;

test and pilot new approaches to services, for example by implementing additional support for lone parents;

maintain existing systems with a planned schedule of new releases.

Each part of the Jobcentre Plus Change Programme has its own targets which require them to deliver changes to agreed specifications of time, cost and quality. These requirements are captured in individual business cases that are formally approved and regularly reviewed. Change Programme projects comply with standard project and programme management disciplines. The overall programme is reviewed at least monthly to monitor whether it is on track in categories such as schedules, resources, risk, governance, business readiness and benefits.

I hope this is helpful.

Gershon Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what efficiency savings have been made in his Department and agencies as a result of the Gershon review; and if he will make a statement. [108364]

Mrs. McGuire: At the time that the Gershon efficiency savings targets were set for the Department for Work and Pensions we already had in excess of 90 projects, programmes and initiatives under way or being considered that contributed to the Department's efficiency through modernisation of the Department's systems and processes.

After the setting of these targets the programme was reviewed in order to ensure that it would deliver the necessary efficiencies. Where appropriate projects, programmes and initiatives were modified to take into account these new targets. Additionally new projects, programmes and initiatives were assessed for their contribution to the efficiency targets.

The Department has not undertaken any project, programme or initiative solely on the basis of delivering the efficiency challenge, but on the basis of delivering value for money to taxpayers while delivering improvements to our customers' experience and contributing to the Department's achievement of its efficiency challenge.

Efficiency savings reported up to September 2006 were £874 million.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department and agencies on achieving Gershon efficiency savings; whether these costs are accounted for and included in the reports of headline efficiency savings; and if he will make a statement. [108365]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions follows the reporting requirements set for Gershon efficiency savings which do not require that efficiencies be recorded net of upfront investment costs. The efficiencies reported derive both from core management best practice initiatives and from specific efficiency projects. It is not possible to isolate how much has been spent in order to achieve Gershon efficiency savings without incurring disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of housing benefit recipients *(a)* have children and *(b)* receive a premium for a disabled child. [129799]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Housing benefit (HB) recipients with dependants/a disabled child premium: Great Britain, May 2003

	Number/percentage
Number HB recipients with dependants	1,162,000
Percentage HB recipients with dependants	30.6
Number HB recipients with a disabled child premium	78,000
Percentage HB recipients with a disabled child premium	2

Notes:
1. Case loads are rounded to the nearest thousand and percentages to one decimal place.
2. Figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. Dependants are defined as children aged under 16 or young adults aged 16 to 18 in full time education.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2003.

Housing Benefit: Shared Housing

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young housing benefit recipients were subject to the shared room rate restriction in each region in each year since its introduction. [130626]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table:

Housing benefit recipients subject to the Single Room Rent (SRR) scheme by Government office region: August 1997 to August 2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North East	1,570	1,550	1,130	1,070	740	740	860	720	800	730
North West	4,810	3,560	2,910	2,250	1,870	1,710	1,780	1,780	1,660	1,660
Yorkshire and Humberside	2,980	2,980	2,330	1,620	1,250	1,110	1,020	970	1,060	820
East Midlands	2,800	2,090	1,240	860	1,140	840	470	570	490	560
West Midlands	1,900	2,130	1,630	1,400	870	750	1,180	1,350	760	830
East	2,620	2,500	1,800	1,320	960	700	560	680	820	740
London	4,950	4,150	3,130	1,930	1,380	1,140	1,230	1,480	1,800	1,780
South East	4,200	3,690	2,760	1,780	970	750	760	1,160	1,520	1,430
South West	4,320	3,960	2,700	2,050	1,760	1,130	900	960	940	1,030
Wales	2,120	2,090	1,690	1,200	1,030	900	910	940	980	920
Scotland	2,050	1,560	1,210	1,080	920	860	940	960	950	810

Notes:
1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
4. Figures for any non-responding local authorities have been estimated.
5. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 1997 to August 2006

Income Support

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people *(a)* below and *(b)* above national retirement age were claiming income support in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. [130849]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table:

Income support (IS) claimants in Great Britain by age: as at August 1997 and August 2006

	IS claimants 60 years of age and over	IS claimants under 60 years of age
August 1997	1,741,800	2,304,700
August 2006	[1]—	2,128,520

[1] Income support for those aged 60 and over was replaced by minimum income guarantee (MIG) in April 1999. MIG was, in turn, replaced by pension credit in October 2003. No comparable data is available for 2006.

Notes:

1. 1997 figures are rounded to the nearest 100, 2006 figures to the nearest 10.
2. 1997 figures have been uprated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. WPLS totals.

Source:

100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study Information Directorate, 5 per cent. samples.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many branches of Jobcentre Plus there are in England and Wales. [129178]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 12 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many branches of Jobcentre Plus there are in England and Wales. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The current Jobcentre Plus network in England and Wales consists of 717 Jobcentres providing face to face access for customers. In addition we have 28 Contact Centres, which allow customers to access our services using telephones. There are currently 68 Benefit Delivery Centres in England and Wales which process benefit, and a further two Benefit Delivery Centres, one in Scotland and one in Northern Ireland which also process benefit for customers in London. Within our network we have a number of other feeder sites, some of which have a dual role as front facing offices, still processing benefit. These sites will reduce month on month as they migrate work into the main Benefit Delivery Centres by March 2008.

Customers are now using our Jobcentres differently. More of our face-to-face customer contact is on an appointment basis and information on job vacancies is readily available by telephone and the internet. This enables staff in our offices to focus on those customers in greatest need of support to return to work.

I hope this information is helpful.

Jobcentres: Norfolk

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which stakeholders his Department has invited to comment on the proposals to close Jobcentre Plus branches in Norfolk; [126251]

(2) what recent representations he has received from trade unions on proposals to close Jobcentre Plus branches in Norfolk; [126254]

(3) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the public is aware of the consultation exercise on the future of Jobcentre Plus branches in Norfolk; [126258]

(4) why Cabinet Office guidelines for the length of a consultation period have not been applied to the consultation on the future of Norfolk's Jobcentre Plus branches; [126259]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 12 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about the consultation process regarding the closures of Jobcentres in Norfolk. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The stakeholders invited to comment on the proposals to close Jobcentre Plus offices were the Members of Parliament for the constituencies affected, Chief Executives and Welfare Benefits Advisers of the Local Authorities concerned, Citizens Advice representatives, Primary Care Trusts, Trade Union representatives, providers of Jobcentre Plus programmes, the Learning and Skills Council, the Government Office for the East of England and the East of England Development Agency.

There have been informal discussions at a local level between the District Manager and local Union officials. We have not yet received a formal response to the consultation from the trade unions.

Apart from consultation with stakeholders we have put a prominently displayed statement in each of our Jobcentres advising customers of our plans and giving the contact details of the District Manager for Jobcentre Plus in Norfolk, should they wish to comment on the proposals. To date the District Manager has received four responses from customers who use Hunstanton Jobcentre and none from any of the other Jobcentres.

The Cabinet Office guidance on consultation issues relates to proposed new policy initiatives, or changes to existing policy. Jobcentre closures are operational issues. For Jobcentre Plus we are using a six week consultation period. This period has recently been extended from three weeks at the request of Ministers. We think that this allows ample time for the views of stakeholders to be considered.

National Insurance Numbers

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were *(a)* issued, *(b)* deleted and *(c)* current in each year since 1997. [116607]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following tables.

Total number of national insurance numbers issued between 1997 and 2006

	Number
1997	1,017,500
1998	1,026,885
1999	1,021,776
2000	995,351
2001	928,059
2002	1,082,035
2003	1,141,795
2004	1,250,622
2005	1,486,312
2006	1,531,786

Note:
The number of national insurance numbers (NINOs) issued includes the following:
1. Children who reach 16 years of age (the juvenile registration process);
2. UK adults who missed out on the juvenile registration process; and
3.Foreign nationals who enter the UK and require a NINO for benefit, tax credit or employment purposes (adult NINO allocation process).

Total approximate number of national insurance numbers in issue at 31 December in each year between 1997 and 2006

	Number (million)
1997	66
1998	67
1999	68
2000	69
2001	70
2002	71
2003	72
2004	73
2005	74.5
2006	76.8

The discrepancy between the number of NINOs allocated and the increase in the overall numbers of cases in issue is due to the differences in Child Reference Numbers allocated and those changing to NINOs at aged 16 years, which is closely linked to birth rates over a 16-year period.

NINOs are not normally deleted from the Departmental Central Index (DCI) or Customer Information System (CIS). For example, they are retained after a person dies or moves abroad. This is because individuals who move abroad may at some point have a call upon contributions paid whilst in the UK. In the case of deceased individuals, a partner may make a claim for a contributory benefit, which is dependent on the contribution record of the deceased individual. This means that the number of accounts held on the system accrues as NINOs are allocated each year.

A joint data cleansing exercise was carried out in 2000-01 with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, who jointly own the NINO. This exercise identified NINOs for which there had been no activity for a considerable period of time and which were not known to the National Insurance Recording System (NIRs). This exercise removed 200,000 NINOs from DCI.

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 643W, how he determines whether a person leaving the new deal rolls has found a job. [130218]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The data provided on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 643W, on whether a person has left new deal for lone parents to a job is obtained from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, which draws together data from Department for Work and Pensions computer systems and from employment records supplied by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the cost to the public purse of an unemployed person returning to work under *(a)* the new deal self-employment programme and *(b)* other new deal programmes. [130399]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to her on 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1184-86.

New Deal Schemes: Kidderminster

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the extent to which Pertemps People Development Group Ltd. are meeting the terms of the contract by which they operate the New Deal provision for the Jobcentre Plus in Kidderminster. [128736]

Mr. Jim Murphy: All new deal contractors are required to meet the quality and delivery standards set out in their contract specification. They are subject to contract management and monitoring by professional and trained Jobcentre Plus procurement staff, in addition to any required Adult Learning Inspectorate inspection and audit.

New Deal Schemes: Sanctions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit claimants under the *(a)* New Deal for Lone Parents, *(b)* New Deal for Young People, *(c)* New Deal 25 Plus, *(d)* New Deal for Disabled People and *(e)* StepUP have been subject to sanctions (i) once, (ii) twice and (iii) three times or more in each year since the introduction of the scheme, broken down by reason for sanction; and how many claimants sanctioned subsequently had their benefit reinstated. [124076]

Mr. Jim Murphy: New deal for lone parents and new deal for disabled people are voluntary programmes and benefit sanctions are not applied to these programmes.

Between April and December 2002, twenty StepUP pilots were launched in selected wards across Great Britain. The last client left StepUp in January 2006. Information on StepUP sanctions is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Information on benefit re-instatement is not available.

The available information has been placed in the Library.

Pathways to Work: Standards

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions his Department has had on the Freud Report proposal of the introduction of a star system by Jobcentre Plus to measure provider performance in Pathways to Work; and if he will make a statement. [128710]

Mr. Jim Murphy: David Freud's report "Reducing dependency, increasing opportunity: options for the future of welfare to work" does not propose the introduction of a star system to measure provider

performance in Pathways to Work. The report proposes, as part of a new contracting system, that

"the Department will need to develop monitoring capability similar to the successful Star Rating system developed in Australia."

The Department has been developing such a capability and will be introducing a prototype for new deal and employment zone contracts in April 2007, in order to test the concept.

Pesticides: Export Controls

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the export to developing countries of pesticides banned for use in the UK. [131075]

Mrs. McGuire: Export of pesticides to developing countries, in line with most requirements on chemicals, is subject to European law. EC Regulation 304/2003/EC concerning the export and import of certain dangerous chemicals includes provisions that provide importing countries with information on chemicals that are banned in Europe, and enable them to make informed decisions on whether they want to accept or refuse the export, or to allow it under conditions. The regulation also bans the export of certain pesticides. The regulation incorporates the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

Smith Institute: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much money from the public purse *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies gave to (i) the Smith Institute and (ii) its subsidiary SI Events Limited in each year since 1997; and for what purpose each payment was made. [123100]

Mrs. McGuire: Expenditure recorded in the Department for Work and Pensions Financial systems for the Smith Institute is as follows:

Payment date	*£*	*AC*
17 April 2000	29.95	Management conference
7 January 2003	50.00	Subscriptions
5 August 2003	150.00	Staff training
28 September 2004	50.00	Subscriptions
3 October 2005	150.00	Other general expenditure
22 December 2005	50.00	Subscriptions
8 November 2006	50.00	General office expenditure

Social Fund

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications to the Social Fund were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [124900]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following tables.

Initial awards and refusals for community care grants, crisis loans and budgeting loans in Great Britain

	Community Care Grants		*Crisis Loans*		*Budgeting Loans*	
	Initial awards	*Initial refusals*	*Initial awards*	*Initial refusals*	*Initial awards*	*Initial refusals*
March 2006	24,900	28,200	92,700	29,800	108,100	29,600
April 2006	19,700	20,300	70,900	21,100	100,800	17,800
May 2006	23,400	25,200	82,000	24,200	133,600	21,800
June 2006	25,300	29,000	87,900	25,600	129,300	25,100
July 2006	21,500	25,100	79,900	24,900	115,900	23,700
August 2006	22,500	26,700	85,700	27,500	114,500	26,500
September 2006	21,400	26,800	84,100	26,600	96,300	39,400
October 2006	25,300	31,200	97,600	29,700	107,800	44,800
November 2006	26,600	33,300	101,000	32,700	130,400	74,600
December 2006	19,000	24,100	83,900	25,600	90,800	45,300
January 2007	22,000	26,200	101,200	29,700	62,000	38,100
February 2007	22,100	26,200	95,200	31,000	101,600	26,100

Initial awards and refusals for Sure Start maternity grants and funeral payments in Great Britain

	Sure Start maternity grants		*Funeral payments*	
	Initial awards	*Initial refusals*	*Initial awards*	*Initial refusals*
March 2006	19,800	9,100	3,600	2,600
April 2006	15,500	7,300	2,500	2,100
May 2006	18,900	8,700	3,300	2,400
June 2006	20,000	9,200	3,300	2,400
July 2006	19,400	9,200	3,000	2,200
August 2006	18,500	8,900	3,400	2,500
September 2006	19,400	9,500	2,900	2,200
October 2006	19,000	9,600	3,100	2,300
November 2006	19,700	9,400	3,000	2,300
December 2006	14,700	6,600	2,200	1,700
January 2007	20,900	9,400	3,200	2,500
February 2007	17,600	8,500	3,400	2,600

Initial awards and refusals for social fund applications (all five types) in Great Britain

	Initial awards	*Initial refusals*
March 2006	249,100	99,300
April 2006	209,500	68,600
May 2006	261,100	82,200
June 2006	265,800	91,300
July 2006	239,800	85,100
August 2006	244,600	92,200
September 2006	224,200	104,500
October 2006	252,800	117,600
November 2006	280,700	152,300
December 2006	210,800	103,200
January 2007	200,300	106,000
February 2007	239,800	94,200

Notes:
1. Figures do not include awards or refusals made after review, reconsideration or appeal.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures *(a)* have been and

(b) are planned to be put in place to assist (i) pensioners and (ii) claimants for whom English is a second language in accessing the Social Fund system. [130178]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 16 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what measures (a) have been and (b) are planned to be put in place to assist (i) pensioners and (ii) claimants for whom English is a second language in accessing the Social Fund system. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Pensioners can make enquiries about the Social Fund to the Pension Service or to Jobcentre Plus. Pension Centres hold stocks of Social Fund application forms and staff will give general advice about the Social Fund. If more detailed information is required customers will be directed to their nearest Jobcentre Plus office that deals with the Social Fund.

With regard to customers for whom English is a second language, it is the policy of the Department for Work and Pensions to provide an interpreter when there is a need to communicate with a customer who is unable to communicate adequately in English, and who cannot, or does not wish, to provide their own interpreter. This service can be provided by the use of multi-lingual staff, the use of face-to-face interpreters, either from known local interpreting services, or from the departmental face-to-face interpreting contract or by using the Departmental telephone interpreting contract.

The Jobcentre Plus leaflet "Jobcentre Plus—Our service standards" gives customers information about help available if they do not speak English. This leaflet is available on the Jobcentre Plus Internet website in a number of languages. There are also four leaflets dealing specifically with the Social Fund that are available in English or Welsh in a printed version and that can also be accessed along with versions in several other languages via the Jobcentre Plus Internet.

There are no additional measures planned to assist pensioners or customers for whom English is a second language in accessing the Social Fund.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* race impact assessments, *(b)* gender impact assessments and *(c)* disability impact assessments for the four London transitional offices prior to the centralisation of Social Fund work in London in the 2007-08 financial year. [130180]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 16 April 2007:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking if he will place in the Library copies of the (a) race impact assessments, (b) gender impact assessments and (c) disability impact assessments for the four London transitional offices prior to the centralisation of Social Fund work in London in the 2007-08 financial year. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Race Impact Assessment for London Benefit processing has been published on the Jobcentre Plus website (www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk) and a copy will be placed in the Library.

We are in the process of reviewing the Race Impact Assessment with our Diversity and Equality colleagues, taking into account changes which have taken place since May 2005. This review will also include gender and disability Impact Assessments and will be completed by May 2007. The outcome of the review will be published on the Jobcentre Plus website and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Social Fund: Greater London

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total current unrecovered Social Fund debt is; and what the figure is for *(a)* London and *(b)* each office in London. [131211]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table:

Social fund debt balances

£000

	Budgeting loan	Crisis loan	Funeral payment	Total
National	601,339	205,910	99,081	906,329
Total London	86,872	28,882	19,131	134,885
London offices				
Canning Town	12,380	3,831	3,015	19,226
Bexley	2	0	0	2
Acton	7,768	4,942	1,715	14,426
Highgate	7,931	3,557	1,606	13,095
SE London	19,749	5,747	3,304	28,799
Ilford	9,038	1,653	1,607	12,298
Harrow	7,904	2,976	3,280	14,161
Balham	12,414	4,781	2,555	19,750
Wood Green	1	1	0	1
Barnet Hill	9,685	1,395	2,048	13,127

Notes:
1. Balances have been taken as at 28 February 2007.
2. London has been defined as all offices within the London Government office region.
3. Totals may not appear as sum of the individual lines due to rounding.

Source:
Social Fund Computer System.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Social Fund debt was written off in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what the figure was for London in each year. [131213]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Social fund debts written off 2001-02 to 2005-06, nationally and for London

£000

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
National					
Budgeting loans	1,486	1,463	1,234	1,315	2,060
Crisis loans	448	463	120	551	922
Funeral payments	32,035	31,081	25,587	37,991	41,867
Total	33,970	33,007	26,940	39,857	44,850
London					
Budgeting loans	155	96	123	41	320

Social fund debts written off 2001-02 to 2005-06, nationally and for London

£000

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Crisis loans	62	44	28	16	130
Funeral payments	2,949	3,406	1,365	2,541	2,511
Total	3,165	3,546	1,516	2,598	2,961

Notes:
1. London has been defined as all offices within the London Government office region as at 30 March 2007.
2. Totals may not appear as sum of the individual lines due to rounding.

Source:
Programme Accounting Computer System.

Social Security Benefits

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were claiming *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefits and *(c)* disability allowance in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006; and how many of these categories of data are classified as national statistics. [130850]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table. Claimant numbers for all three benefits are DWP National Statistics.

Jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit, and severe disablement allowance claimants in Great Britain, as at August 1997 and 2006

Benefit	August 1997	August 2006
Jobseeker's allowance	1,465,500	924,200
Incapacity benefit	2,455,100	2,447,960
Severe disablement allowance	383,400	277,020

Notes:
1. Jobseeker's allowance figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Jobseeker's allowance figures are seasonally adjusted.
3. Claimant figures for incapacity benefit include incapacity benefit credits only cases.

Sources:
100 per cent. DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) and 100 per cent. Count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria are used to decide the levels of payments made for *(a)* income support, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* the carer's allowance; and if he will make a statement. [131147]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Government take into account a number of factors when reviewing benefit rates each year, the most important of which is the level of inflation. For some years, carer's allowance has been increased in line with the retail prices index. However, jobseeker's allowance and income support are increased by the Rossi index, which is based on the retail prices index and reflects the costs of living increases for people living on these benefits.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who claim disability living allowance are also claiming *(a)* industrial injuries disablement benefit, *(b)* war disablement pension, *(c)* funding from the independent living fund and *(d)* constant attendance allowance. [130237]

Mrs. McGuire: As at August 2006, the most recent available information, there were 253,360 people in receipt of both disability living allowance and industrial injuries disablement benefit.

Information is not available on the numbers receiving both disability living allowance and war disablement pension.

As at 10 March 2007, there were 19,234 people receiving disability living allowance and financial assistance from the Independent Living Funds.

As at August 2006, the most recent available information, there were 2,140 people in receipt of both disability living allowance and constant attendance allowance.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefits are available for people with disabilities who are below the retirement age but receive private pensions; and if he will make a statement. [130915]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department administers a wide range of working age benefits to cover different needs and circumstances. All of these could be available to people with disabilities who receive private pensions. However, entitlement to each benefit, and the amount payable, would depend on a person meeting the relevant conditions.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases were referred to the National Identity Fraud Unit in each year since 1997; how many of these cases were investigated in each year; and how many of these cases resulted in a conviction in each year. [124083]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available as to how many of the cases referred to the National Identity Fraud Unit (NIFU) led to a conviction.

The available information is in the following table.

NIFU referrals

	Number of cases referred to NIFU[1]	Number of cases referred by NIFU to Fraud Investigation Services[2]
1998-99	3,823	[3]
1999-2000	5,354	[3]
2000-01	4397	[3]
2001-02	3,111	[3]
2002-03	[4]14,665	[3]
2003-04	[4]39,555	400
2004-05	7,227	793
2005-06	8,891	2,689

[1] Data regarding the number of cases referred to the NIFU not available prior to 1998-99.
[2] Not all cases referred to NIFU are referred to the DWP Fraud Investigation Service for investigation. Many are referred to other Government Departments either as intelligence files or for further investigation. The Fraud Investigation Service will only investigate referrals which involve a claim to benefit. Many cases referred to NIFU do not involve benefit cases.
[3] Data not available.
[4] There was a large increase in the number of referrals in 2002-03 and 2003-04 due to Operation Eame, which was a joint operation with the Home Department which flagged a few thousand immigration offenders to prevent incorrect payment of benefit.

Source:
National Identity Fraud Unit

Social Security Benefits: Highland Council

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department plans to continue to fund two posts in the benefit maximisation team at Highland Council after the end of March. [130196]

James Purnell *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* No. Under the Link-Age Programme, it was made clear to contractors that funds from The Partnership Fund were time limited and there was no expectation that future funding would be sought from any source, or any extension of funding granted. The purpose of the project was solely for information gathering and evaluation to inform any future strategies and policies.

Social Security Benefits: Postal Services

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the bodies responsible for awarding *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* housing benefit, *(c)* income support, *(d)* jobseeker's allowance, *(e)* incapacity benefit, *(f)* council tax benefit and *(g)* state pension have spent on sending mail items in each of the last five years. [130596]

Mr. Plaskitt: Spend on sending mail items in the last five years is detailed in the following table. The Pension Service is responsible for awarding pension credit and state pension. Jobcentre Plus is responsible for awarding income support, jobseekers allowance and incapacity benefit. Housing and council tax benefit is awarded by the claimant's local authority. No spend data is available and is not included therefore in the table.

£

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
Pension credit	656,038	2,173,101	3,724,827	3,174,754	2,740,667	12,469,387
Income support	9,124,182	8,356,140	5,717,443	4,450,273	4,379,241	32,027,280
Jobseeker's allowance	9,207,774	8,462,737	6,788,897	4,749,119	4,958,421	34,166,949
Incapacity benefit	3,267,726	2,835,358	2,603,215	2,014,279	2,159,758	12,880,337
State pension	5,859,451	6,376,488	6,027,215	4,559,554	6,093,716	28,916,424
Total	28,115,172	28,203,824	24,861,597	18,947,980	20,331,804	120,460,377

Social Security Benefits: Sanctions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effect of benefit sanctions. [124085]

Mr. Plaskitt: There is strong evidence to suggest that sanctions do drive behaviour. Of those claiming jobseekers allowance (JSA) the vast majority comply with the JSA conditions; only 14 per cent. Are actually referred for a decision and only 4 per cent. Actually have a sanction applied. Research of those that have and have not been sanctioned on JSA found that nearly half of those sanctioned think their own sanction was fair.

80 per cent. Of lone parents attend work focused interviews (WFI). Of the 20 per cent. Who fail to attend the majority, two thirds, go on to attend their subsequent WFI following a sanction or threat of a sanction.

In the pathways pilots only around 1 per cent. Of customers have been sanctioned.

These figures suggest that the overwhelming majority of claimants meet the conditions and understand the need for sanctions when those conditions are not met.

While there is a financial penalty to sanctions the threat of sanctioning is usually enough to deter non-compliance with the rules. But where there is non-compliance and a sanction is applied, it has to be sufficient to drive home the message that benefit is only paid to those who meet the conditions.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls were made to the 08456 088564 Jobcentre Plus number of the Department for Work and Pensions in each of the last six months; what average time was taken to answer calls in each month; and how many missed calls there were in each month. [124967]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 3 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many calls were made to the 08456 088564 Jobcentre Plus number of the Department for Work and Pensions in each of the last six months; what was the average time it took to answer calls; and how many missed calls there were in each month. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The telephone number 08456 088564 relates to Exeter, which we are currently converting into a Benefits Delivery Centre. When this process is complete the new telephony system will be able to provide the requested information.

As part of this transition, the 0845 number was introduced from 05 December 2006 and available data shows an increase in calls answered each month from 6,426 calls in December 2006 to 7,385 in January 2007 and 7,770 in February 2007.

We are working hard to ensure the number of calls answered continues to increase. The average length of each call is approximately 4 minutes.

I hope this is helpful.

Social Security Benefits: Terrorism

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals related to suspected terrorists have had their welfare payments

(a) suspended and *(b)* terminated in each of the last nine months; and what value of payments was suspended or terminated in each case. [131365]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who will be entitled to a state pension in 2012. [126392]

James Purnell *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The information is not available in the format requested. For the year 2012-13 the number of people in receipt of state pension is estimated to be 13.3 million.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 100,000 as they are estimates and therefore subject to variation.

Source:

DWP Forecasting Division.

State Retirement Pensions: Carers

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward amendments to legislation to ensure that carers who claim state pension are also able to claim carer's allowance. [130463]

Mrs. McGuire: Depending on their circumstances, all pensioners may be entitled to extra help from social security benefits on top of their state pension.

We have already changed the rules so that carers aged 65 or over can claim carer's allowance. State pension and carer's allowance are both income maintenance benefits, and they are not payable in full at the same time because this would involve duplicate provision from public funds. However, where state pension is payable at less than the rate of carer's allowance, an amount of carer's allowance can be paid to make up the difference.

There are no current plans to introduce any additional allowance in respect of pensioners who are also carers, or to change the policy on overlapping benefits in respect of carer's allowance and state pension.

Voluntary Organisations: Religion

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology his Department uses to assess the contribution of faith-based groups to the delivery of welfare and the preparation for work in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [123170]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has many valuable links with faith-based organisations, as with other parts of the voluntary and community sector. Faith-based organisations work with the Department in policy development, as members of consultative groups; as partners with local communities, particularly where they are disadvantaged in the labour market; and suppliers delivering welfare and employment services under contract to the Department.

Where faith-based organisations tender for welfare contracts, their proposition is assessed in exactly the same terms as other voluntary or private sector bidders.

Welfare to Work: Reform

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with (i) the Department of Health, (ii) the Department for Education and Skills, (iii) the Department for Communities and Local Government, (iv) the Department for Trade and Industry, (v) the Home Office and (vi) HM Treasury to discuss the recommendations of the David Freud Review of the Welfare to Work Strategy. [127737]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Ministers and officials have had, and will continue to have, regular meetings with other Departments on areas of common interest. This has included discussions on the recent review by David Freud.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the changes to legislation necessary to implement the recommendations of the Freud Review on Welfare to Work; and if he will make a statement. [127741]

Mr. Jim Murphy: David Freud's independent review "Reducing dependency, increasing opportunity: options for the future of welfare to work" was published on 5 March 2007. The Government are considering its recommendations, including any changes to legislation that may be necessary and will respond in due course.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in winter fuel payments to pensioners living outside the UK in 2006-07, broken down by country of recipients' residence. [129821]

James Purnell: The final figures for 2006-07 on Pensioners living outside the UK are not available at present.

The most recent figures available are for 2005-06 and were given in the reply on 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1415W.

Young Persons

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of young people between 16 and 25 years were not in work, training or education in each local authority area in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [110530]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development: Religion

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what investigations take place into applicants for grants from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund (FCCBF) on *(a)* the extent of their representativeness amongst that religion's followers and *(b)* the ability of groups to finance schemes without FCCBF grants; and if she will make a statement. [131278]

Mr. Woolas: Applications for funding from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund (FCCBF) are administered by the Community Development Foundation on behalf of Communities and Local Government and are considered against a range of criteria, based on assessment of supporting information provided.

The consideration process does not consider the extent of applicants' representativeness among a religion's followers, but where relevant the Community Development Foundation will take care to ensure an organisation does reach the communities they claim to.

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish the results of each local authority housing stock transfer ballot that has taken place in the last two years. [130297]

Yvette Cooper: Large scale voluntary transfer ballots results from 1 April 2005 to date are listed in the following table:

Date of tenant ballot	*LA/Scheme*	*Valid votes cast*	*Percentage in favour*
1 April 2005	Broxbourne	2,748	69.7
4 April 2005	North Somerset	4,992	76.5
4 April 2005	Ellesmere Port and Neston	4,210	48.2
8 April 2005	Tower Hamlets Island Homes	605	65.5
8 April 2005	Tower Hamlets Island Gardens IOD	355	76.6
8 April 2005	Tower Hamlets St. Georges	161	66.0
27 April 2005	Manchester—Hattersley	1,394	92.5
27 May 2005	Tower Hamlets—Sheltered	208	60.2
9 June 2005	Hyndburn borough council	2,562	79.2
12 July 2005	Islington, Ringcross	141	78.7
19 July 2005	Sedgefield borough council	8,173	41.9
22 July 2005	Tower Hamlets—Parkside	820	50.4
26 July 2005	Tandale district council	831	88.2
17 August 2005	Macclesfield borough council	4,491	62.2
18 August 2005	Sefton	9,113	45.0
22 September 2005	Tower Hamlets, Mansford	212	64.0
22 September 2005	Tower Hamlets, Lincoln	122	42.6
22 September 2005	Tower Hamlets Chicksand West	112	78.6
22 September 2005	Tower Hamlets—Wapping	363	42.5
22 September 2005	Tower Hamlets—Glamis	107	69.2
8 November 2005	Rossendale	2,795	82.6
11 November 2005	Aylesbury Vale	6,308	74.4
11 November 2005	Sheffield (Shiregreen)	2,304	85.9
2 December 2005	Manchester W Wythenshawe	5,065	88.2
5 December 2005	Derwentside	5,322	75.7
9 December 2005	Waverley	4,095	47.3
12 December 2005	West Lanes	4,683	43.0
13 December 2005	Sefton	7,261	71.4
19 December 2005	Lambeth Stockwell Park	786	79.1
21 December 2005	Tower Hamlets Longnor Norfolk and Ouse	175	45.7
21 December 2005	Tower Hamlets Stepney Green and Clichy	369	37.4
21 December 2005	Tower Hamlets Exmouth	255	78.0
21 December 2005	Tower Hamlets Cranbrook	195	29.2
21 December 2005	Tower Hamlets Granby Hereford	203	36.5
21 December 2005	Tower Hamlets Barleymow	140	44.3
21 December 2005	Tower Hamlets Lansbury	377	61.5
22 February 2006	Mid Devon	3,054	24.4
24 February 2006	Tower Hamlets Holland	173	74.0
10 March 2006	Selby district council	3,021	34.5
10 March 2006	Tower Hamlets Devons	326	53.7
10 March 2006	Tower Hamlets Bow Bridge	159	72.2
15 March 2006	Pendle borough council	2,917	84.6
27 March 2006	Cannock Chase	4,696	48.1
28 March 2006	North Lincolnshire	7,960	63.0
31 March 2006	Waveney	4,508	32.3
27 April 2006	South Gloucestershire	6,314	64.0
13 July 2006	Sheffield Loxley Wadsley Wisewood	574	76.1
28 July 2006	Tower Hamlets Collingwood and Horwood	451	49.7
8 August 2006	Chorley borough council	2,378	63.1
28 September 2006	Tower Hamlets Boundary	256	12.6
28 September 2006	Tower Hamlets Locksley	304	34.5
28 September 2006	Tower Hamlets Cleveland	127	41.7
28 September 2006	Tower Hamlets Ocean	666	37.3
3 November 2006	Tower Hamlets Dimmont	31	93.5

Date of tenant ballot	LA/Scheme	Valid votes cast	Percentage in favour
9 November 2006	Tower Hamlets East India	464	78.8
10 November 2006	Watford borough council	3,497	54.5
13 November 2006	South Kesteven district council	4,791	26.8
29 November 2006	Salisbury district council	4,810	28.7
1 December 2006	Gravesham	4,903	14.0
6 December 2006	North Shropshire	1,872	79.5
7 December 2006	Fenland district council	3,257	53.9
7 December 2006	Islington Packington	319	89.3
13 December 2006	Lewisham Phoenix	2,976	68.7
14 December 2006	Daventry district council	2,638	76.8
15 December 2006	Castle Morpeth borough council	1,997	87.4
15 December 2006	Braintree district council	6,910	62.3
15 December 2006	Rochford district council	1,491	82.8
15 December 2006	Wellingborough borough council	3,500	74.7
18 December 2006	Taunton Deane borough council	4,802	31.3
18 December 2006	Sheffield Harold Lambert Court	536	77.6
18 December 2006	LB Sutton Roundshaw	364	58.8
18 December 2006	Sheffield Lower Manor	919	87.9
18 December 2006	Sheffield Wybourn	736	73.5
21 December 2006	Tower Hamlets Alfred and Malmesbury	338	49.4
2 February 2007	Sheffield Hyde Park Walk and Terrace	135	74.8
2 February 2007	Sheffield Richmond Park, Birklands and Athelstan	428	71.0
20 February 2007	Brighton and Hove city council	6,744	23.0
5 March 2007	Manchester CC South	4,943	58.9
15 March 2007	Chester Le Street	3,712	60.6
16 March 2007	Wansbeck district council	4,299	84.9
21 March 2007	Harborough	1,800	76.4
26 March 2007	Mole Valley	3,011	85.9

Council Tax

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what provision is made when setting council tax banding for dwellings located within estates where services are funded directly by residents rather than the local authority; and if she will make a statement. [131186]

Mr. Woolas: Council tax bandings are based on open market property values in 1991, which—in such cases—will reflect the local circumstances for the estate.

Council Tax: Part-time Students

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has given to local authorities on the eligibility of part-time students to pay council tax; and if she will make a statement. [130748]

Mr. Woolas: Council Tax Practice Note No. 2—'Liability, Discounts and Exemptions' published in 1993 by then Department of the Environment, provided guidance to local authorities on who qualified as a student for the purposes of a council tax discount disregard or exemption. Further guidance on council tax and students has been provided to local authorities by the Department of the Environment and its successors through council tax implementation and information letters dated 15 October 1992, 4 December 1992, 13 March 1995, 13 November 1996, 27 November 2003 and 5 October 2004.

Council Tax: Fines

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of the fine is that may be deployed against local residents who do not fill in a questionnaire sent by the Valuation Office Agency asking for information on the property attributes of their residence. [129681]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Councillors: Payments

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the probity of payments from councillors' allowances to political parties or political groups being paid via local authority payroll arrangements. [129662]

Ruth Kelly: No guidance has been issued by the Department on this subject. Donations to political parties by councillors are a matter for the members concerned.

Departments: Databases

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how often her Department's databases are updated with the details of individuals who have moved house. [130598]

Yvette Cooper: Communities and Local Government does not hold databases on members of the public moving house.

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department are based in or allocated to regional activities; and what the salary costs of those staff were in the last financial year. [130124]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government had 950 (Full-Time Equivalent 910) out of a total 2,799 (Full-Time Equivalent 2,681) staff based in the nine Government Offices for the Regions at the end of the last financial year 2005-06. Communities and Local Government's share of these 2,799 staffs costs was broadly pro-rata to its 34 per cent. staff numbers, but that element could be separated from its overall Government Office Administration resource contribution of £138,741,000[1] only at disproportionate cost.

In addition, a number of staff in the Department's HQ contribute to work aimed at delivering the Government's regional objectives. These include those working on regional resilience, on the regional economic performance public service agreement target, on broader cities and regions policy, in planning and housing strategy and on the development of Communities England. They also include the staff of the Regional Co-ordination Unit, which provides central services to all ten Departments operating through the Government Office network.

Again, it is not possible to disaggregate the specifically regional elements of these staffs activities, but the Department's Annual Report 2006 sets out in detail the resources allocated to different work streams.

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to ensure her Department's economical use of paper. [128012]

Angela E. Smith: Paper supplied for use in the Department's laser copiers and facilities management document copying machines is of 100 per cent. post-consumer waste materials.

The Department's facilities management contractor operates a waste paper recycling scheme whereby collections are made on a regular basis through the organisation.

The Department's publications, where printed, use paper material of no less than 75 per cent. post-consumer waste. Any printed publications to be destroyed by the Department's storage contractors are sent for pulping and recycling into new products.

Departments: Pay

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the salary band is of her Department's new Director of Communications; [128443]

(2) what the name is of her Department's new Director of Communications. [128559]

Angela E. Smith: The salary for the Director of Communications falls in line with other major Departments of State, within pay band 2 of the senior civil service pay range, details of which are published on www.civilservice.gov.uk

The names of all directors in the Department are published on the Department's website at www.communities.gov.uk

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by her Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130138]

Angela E. Smith: Information about the political activity of appointees is recorded and publicised in accordance with the independent Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. This shows that no former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 have since been appointed to public bodies sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government, which was established in May 2006. Those appointed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister are as follows:

Name

Candy Atherton

Party

Labour

Appointing Authority

Minister for Housing and Planning.

Departments: Publicity

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press, information and marketing staff are employed by her Department. [129101]

Angela E. Smith: The members of the Department's Communications directorate are listed in The White Book, published by COI, which is available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public funding her Department has provided to the Media Planet Group for *(a)* advertorials and *(b)* supplements in the last 12 months. [129200]

Angela E. Smith: The Department's Communications Directorate has not provided any funding to the Media Planet Group for advertorials or supplements in the last 12 months.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* press, *(b)* information, *(c)* communications and *(d)* marketing staff are employed by her Department. [129276]

Angela E. Smith: The members of the Department's Communications directorate are listed in The White Book, published by COI, which is available in the Library of the House.

Discrimination

Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made with the Discrimination Law Review; and when she expects to publish the Review. [131610]

Mr. Woolas: As the Secretary of State announced to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Equalities on 20 March, the proposals emerging from the Discrimination Law Review will be published for public consultation in May.

Emergency Services: Reorganisation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation her Department has undertaken on the regionalisation of fire control centres with *(a)* the police and *(b)* the ambulance service. [130911]

Angela E. Smith: The Department consulted widely on proposals to establish a network of Regional Control Centres in 2003, before the project was initiated. The FiReControl project remains in touch with developments within the other emergency services and is a member of the 999/112 Liaison Committee, which includes representatives of the police, ambulance services and the coastguard.

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice her Department has issued to fire authorities on co-responding following the decision by the Court of Appeal in March 2007. [130912]

Angela E. Smith: No advice about co-responding has been given to Fire and Rescue Authorities since the Court of Appeal decision. The court case was about whether co-responding formed part of firefighters' contracted duties. Firefighters' terms and conditions are a matter for the employers.

We fully support co-responding schemes in principle, given their potential to save lives, and would wish to see all Fire and Rescue Authorities working in partnership with their local Ambulance Service NHS Trusts to introduce such schemes locally if that is appropriate. But decisions on whether to introduce or maintain co-responding schemes are for each Fire and Rescue Authority to make, subject to local needs and resources.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued to fire *(a)* authorities and *(b)* services relating to the installation of CCTV in fire engines. [129751]

Ruth Kelly: Communities and Local Government have issued guidance to authorities/services relating to the installation of CCTV in fire appliances on two occasions. These are given as follows:

A section on the provision of CCTV on fire appliances has been included in the recently published Fire and Rescue Service Circular, 14/2007 (issued 15 March 2007) 'Tackling Violence at Work: Good Practice Guidance Document for Fire and Rescue Services' The extract from this document that relates to CCTV provides evidence that CCTV reduces attacks on crews and appliances. The guidance points out that the use of CCTV cameras comes under the scope of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and the Data Protection Act 1988 (DPA).

The circular outlines the importance of CCTV in providing continuity of evidence needed to meet the requirements of The Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE), to support the principles of "prevent and deter" and can provide evidence to catch and convict perpetrators. The circular recommended that authorities should consider the use of CCTV in support of staff that may be exposed to violence at work in identified areas of high risk (Ref 7.1.3).

Reference to the provision of CCTV on fire appliances has also been made in the "Pumping Appliance Output Based Specification and Compliance Statement" that forms part of the "Firebuy" Tender framework agreements for pumping appliances, which stated that a CCTV system with 360 vision and a record facility should be offered as part of any tender.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and which staff working in fire control centres are on short-term contracts. [131228]

Angela E. Smith: This information requested is not held by the Department.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects *(a)* each regional fire control centre to open and *(b)* staff to migrate to each centre; and what the rental costs are expected to be for each centre in the final year of operation. [131229]

Angela E. Smith: The dates when each FRA control room functions are expected to cut over to the new regional control centre are set out in the following table. The table also gives the annual rent for each RCC building. Prior to cut-over, each RCC building will be equipped with IT infrastructure that will provide the call handling and mobilisation functionality. The RCCs will also be used for staff training and by the regional project management team.

Staff will become employees of an RCC at or around the time of their authority cut-over.

FRA	*Control room function cut-over to RCC*	*Annual lease per annum for RCC (£)*
East Midlands		
Derbyshire	October 2009	[1]1,205,000
Leicestershire	January 2010	[1]—
Nottinghamshire	March 2010	[1]—
Lincolnshire	May 2010	[1]—
Northamptonshire	July 2010	[1]—
North East		
Durham and Darlington	January 2010	[2]1,156,009
Tyne and Wear	October 2009	[2]—
Cleveland	March 2010	[2]—

FRA	Control room function cut-over to RCC	Annual lease per annum for RCC (£)
Northumberland	March 2010	[2]—
South West		
Somerset	October 2009	[3]1,213,500
Devon	January 2010	[3]—
Dorset	March 2010	[3]—
Avon	May 2010	[3]—
Cornwall	July 2010	[3]—
Wiltshire	September 2010	[3]—
Gloucestershire	January 2011	[3]—
West Midlands		
Staffordshire	January 2010	[4]1,358,311
West Midlands	March 2010	[4]—
Shropshire	May 2010	[4]—
Hereford and Worcester	September 2010	[4]—
Warwickshire	July 2010	[4]—
South East		
Hampshire	May 2010	[5]1,445,000
Royal Berkshire	September 2010	[5]—
Oxfordshire	January 2011	[5]—
Kent	March 2011	[5]—
East Sussex	May 2011	[5]—
Buckinghamshire	July 2011	[5]—
Isle of Wight	September 2011	[5]—
Surrey	September 2011	[5]—
West Sussex	July 2010	[5]—
North West		
Cumbria	March 2011	[6]1,197,500
Cheshire	March 2011	[6]—
Lancashire	March 2011	[6]—
Greater Manchester	September 2010	[6]—
Merseyside	January 2011	[6]—
Yorkshire and Humberside		
West Yorkshire	January 2011	[7]1,198,808
South Yorkshire	March 2011	[7]—
Humberside	May 2011	[7]—
North Yorkshire	May 2011	[7]—
East of England		
Essex	July 2011	[8]1,349,322
Norfolk	September 2011	[8]—
Cambridge and Peterborough	May 2011	[8]—
Hertfordshire	September 2011	[8]—
Bedfordshire and Luton	July 2011	[8]—
Suffolk	July 2011	[8]—
London		
London	November 2010	Procurement ongoing. No estimate available at this time

Gaming Clubs: Planning Permission

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local planning authorities may take the potential for an increase in problem gambling into account when considering the merits of a planning application for a casino or other venue with gambling facilities; and what guidance her Department has published on this issue. [128592]

Yvette Cooper: The Department has published no specific guidance on this issue. Planning policy statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development advises that the impact of development on the social fabric of communities is a consideration which should be taken into account in the development plan process—this would include the potential impact of the development of a casino, or any other type of development, on the community.

Whether or not a particular consideration is material in the determination of a planning application is a matter for the courts—if it is material, then it is a matter for the decision maker to decide what weight to give it. Any consideration which relates to the use or development of land is capable of being a material consideration.

Ground Rent: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeowners in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex pay rentcharge. [130927]

Mr. Woolas: The precise address and location of a particular property is required to access this information from the Land Registry. It is not possible to provide the quantity of homeowners paying a rentcharge without a description of all the properties relevant to the inquiry. Information on a particular premises can be obtained for a small charge by contacting the Land Registry.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many rentcharge payers the Government Office for East Sussex has arranged to receive redemption in each of the last five years. [130928]

Mr. Woolas: The National Rentcharge Unit based in the Government Office for the North West has the national responsibility for the administration and appraisal of all applications for the redemption and apportionment of a rentcharge using the provisions of the Rentcharges Act 1977.

Rentcharge redemption data is held at national level within the National Rentcharge Unit database and therefore does not enable us to produce a breakdown of details at regional or sub-regional level. However, a review of manual records shows that no applications have been received from the East Sussex area in the last five years.

Hartlepool Borough Council: Government Assistance

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was awarded to Hartlepool Borough Council in government grants in each year since 1996. [131363]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not easily extracted from the available records and to produce this in the format required would take a considerable amount of time and the cost of compliance would far exceed the appropriate limit.

Heat: Wastes

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the potential for the use of currently unused waste heat from power plants in heat grids to distribute warmth in new sustainable communities. [129108]

Yvette Cooper: The Government are committed to responding to the challenges of climate change and the need for new homes in sustainable communities. On 13 December 2006, Communities and Local Government launched a consultation on the draft of a new Planning Policy Statement on climate change. This makes clear that new development should be located to optimise its carbon performance and make the most of existing and planned opportunities for decentralised, renewable and low-carbon energy supplies. In 2006 the Government amended Part L of the Building Regulations to increase energy efficiency standards. Without prescribing solutions, the regulations set standards for energy performance in a way that enables builders to take into account the benefits of renewable and on-site energy generating systems, thus encouraging their take-up.

Government have not made any specific assessment of the potential for the use of currently unused waste heat from power plants. As promised in the Energy Review Report, we have issued new and improved guidance to power station developers on meeting their combined heat and power obligations. This will encourage the waste heat from plants to be utilised for other purposes, including the distribution of heating in communities.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a full copy of the Central Office for Information Strategic Consultancy report on the impact of home information packs. [103902]

Yvette Cooper: The Strategic Consultancy arm of the Central Office of Information have not been commissioned to produce a report on the impact of home information packs. The COI were asked to advise on communications last June.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date *(a)* energy performance certificates and *(b)* home condition reports will become mandatory before a property can be put on the market. [129067]

Yvette Cooper: Energy performance certificates (EPCs) will become mandatory prior to marketing a property for sale from 1 June. An interim energy assessment will have to be provided from the same date for new build properties, and a full EPC for new build properties will be needed for these from October 2007.

Home condition reports (HCRs) are an authorised part of the Home Information Pack and we will continue to promote their roll-out from 1 June. The option of mandatory HCR's remains on the table.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations, agencies and Departments will have access to the Home Condition Report database. [129253]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1400W.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* a home information pack and *(b)* an energy performance certificate will be required to purchase an equity stake under the Social Homebuy scheme. [129233]

Yvette Cooper: Home Information Packs are only required for properties put up for sale on the open market. Sales under the Social HomeBuy scheme to sitting tenants by housing associations and local authorities do not involve marketing and therefore do not need a pack. From October 2008, the provisions of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 come into force for non-marketed residential sales and for rental properties and an EPC will be required at that time.

Housing

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of surplus homes in the North West region which remain to be demolished before restrictions on the number of homes which may be built by local authorities in Cumbria may be removed. [129866]

Yvette Cooper: The existing RSS, which was set out on 31 March 2003, allows for 1,170 dwellings (net of clearance replacement) to be built in Cumbria per year. The total figure for housing in the NW region is 12,790 per year reflecting household growth and the need to support regeneration at that time. The RSS is currently being revised.

Long-term out-migration trends from the core urban areas have been reversed. To reflect this, to cater for increased household projections, to take account of ambitions for economic growth, and to address affordability issues, the draft RSS is proposing an increase of almost 80 per cent. to 22,844—and this is in addition to houses built to replace any demolished.

The draft new RSS allows for 1,850 dwellings a year in Cumbria. We await their report and will prepare Proposed Changes to the document in the light of this. We anticipate that the Final RSS will be published at the end of this year.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessor allocated for *(a)* major repairs allowance, *(b)* housing revenue account subsidy, *(c)* regional housing executive allocations for council housing, *(d)* regional housing executive allocations for registered social landlord housing, *(e)* Approved Development Programme for Housing Corporation, *(f)* arm's length management organisations, *(g)* private finance initiatives and *(h)* stock transfer in (i) England, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) Birmingham in each year since 1997-98. [129907]

Yvette Cooper: The data has been compiled in a series of tables and is lodged in the Library of the House.

The different funding streams referred to in the tables have different financial bases. They relate to the permission to borrow, grants and allowances, this affects how they can be presented with some past figures being allocations but some are actual spend.

(a) Major repairs allowance represents the estimated long-term average amount of capital spending required to maintain a local authority's housing stock in its current condition. The figures are an allowance within the HRA subsidy system.

(b) Housing revenue account subsidy refers to the entitlement local authorities receive from Government to support their housing programmes. 2005-06 is the latest year for which audited figures are available. The figures provided in the table are the annual subsidy entitlement.

(c) Supported capital expenditure is the level of borrowing for capital purposes that is supported by the Government through Housing Revenue Account Subsidy. This value is based on the Regional Housing Boards' allocations.

(d/e) Regional Housing Board recommendations for investment in affordable housing is distributed via the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme as a grant (formerly the Approved Development Programme). It provides investment to Registered Social Landlords and other developers for the provision of homes for social rent and low cost home ownership.

(f) Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) allowance represents revenue support payable to local authorities to finance borrowing for ALMO purposes.

(g) Housing PFI subsidy payments support the capital costs of PFI projects. HRA subsidy payments are made via the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy System, and payments for General Fund schemes via the General Fund.

(h) Stock transfers can involve two types of expenditure. Payments to the Public Works Loan Board to clear Overhanging Debt held by LAs attributable to transferred housing, and gap funding payments which are grants to some RSLs who receive negative value transferred housing.

Housing Associations: Charities

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what basis housing associations and trusts are granted charitable status. [130609]

Yvette Cooper: All bodies which exist for purposes which are recognised as charitable in law and operate for the benefit of the public are required to register with the Charity Commission as charities, unless they are exempt or excepted from the need to do so. Housing associations which wish to become Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), registration is dependent on the housing association meeting the Charity Commission and the Housing Corporation's registration criteria.

In addition, RSLs that are charitable Industrial and Provident Act Societies (IPS) have to meet the Housing Corporation and Financial Services Authority's (FSA) registration criteria. The Charity Commission cannot register these bodies. They are registered as legal entities by the FSA with charitable objects (standard model clauses agreed by the Charity Commission, FSA, National Housing Federation and the Housing Corporation). IPS housing associations can apply to the Inland Revenue for recognition as a charity. If recognised they are known as exempt charities. Currently 680 housing associations fall into this category.

Housing Corporation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* projected and *(b)* actual expenditure by the Housing Corporation was in each English region in each of the last three years. [115783]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows actual expenditure through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme in each English region for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Expenditure is projected for each region and reviewed several times in the year.

	Outturn			*Estimated*	
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*[1]
London	723.4	711.6	714.5	891.4	840.6
South East	296.0	297.2	261.1	368.9	365.0
South West	103.6	85.6	90.1	114.1	153.5
East of England	112.9	136.8	127.2	150.1	186.1
East Midlands	53.1	65.1	70.4	72.1	84.3
West Midlands	88.0	102.9	83.4	96.0	89.3
Yorkshire and Humberside	64.5	60.2	58.6	67.2	69.3
North East	41.2	40.1	34.8	39.7	35.6

	Outturn			Estimated	
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07[1]	2007-08[1]
North West	106.9	109.5	113.3	111.0	99.7
Total	1,589.6	1,609	1,553.4	1,910.5	1,923.4

[1] Regional expenditure limits as at end January 2007

Source:
Housing Corporation

The detailed split of expenditure in 2006-07 and 2007-08 reflects the individual programmes in each region. Each region has a two year completions target with some flexibility between the two years to enable: flexible programming.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new houses were built in each of the five years, broken down by *(a)* Government Office Region and *(b)* local authority area; and how many were built on windfall development sites. [129159]

Yvette Cooper: A table showing the number of new build dwelling completions in each Government Office Region and local authority in England, in each year from 2000-01 to 2005-06, has been placed in the Library of the House. These are as reported by local authorities and the National House Building Council, and therefore are not comparable with other measures which include conveyancing and demolition.

Information is not held centrally on numbers built on windfall sites.

Housing: Disabled

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 988W, on housing: disabled, whether there will be a national mutual exchange scheme which provides its services free of charge to replace those schemes run by Scout Solutions Ltd. which her Department has recently terminated. [130828]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have replaced the mutual exchange scheme, which was facilitated by Scout Solutions Projects Ltd., with a number of alternative providers offering a free of charge service. These services can be accessed via the Governments' website www.direct.gov.co.uk/socialhousing. This link also provides information on a wide range of housing related matters.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what total amount her Department allocated to Hartlepool Borough Council for disabled facilities grants in each of the last five years; and if she will increase in real terms the amount provided in each of the next three years. [131394]

Mr. Woolas: The following table details Hartlepool council's allocations from central Government funding for the last five years.

Hartlepool—disabled facilities grant (DFG) allocation

	£
2003-04	168,000.00
2004-05	180,000.00
2005-06	192,000.00
2006-07	553,000.00
2007-08	264,000.00

DFG funding for the next three years will be decided as part of the comprehensive spending review (CSR). I cannot pre-empt any funding decisions ahead of the CSR.

Housing: Energy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated to the Energy Performance Certificates scheme for *(a)* start-up costs and *(b)* 2007-08. [124839]

Yvette Cooper: The Department has allocated some £1.96 million to start-up costs for the Energy Performance Certificates scheme. This money is required to put into place the necessary systems and calculation methodologies to support introduction of energy certificates and to develop guidance, qualifications and quality assurance frameworks for energy assessors. The allocations for 2007-08 are currently under consideration.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities *(a)* had a surplus on their housing revenue accounts and *(b)* received a subsidy for that account in each of the last 10 years; and how much that (i) surplus and (ii) subsidy was in each case. [107486]

Yvette Cooper: Data for the years 1990-93 inclusive can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Details of housing revenue account subsidy entitlements for individual authorities separated by main income and expenditure items for the years 1994-95 to 2004-05 inclusive are included in a table that has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Housing: Greater London

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes for sale on the open market have been built in *(a)* the London borough of Merton, *(b)* South West London and *(c)* London in each of the last five years. [121563]

Yvette Cooper: Communities and Local Government do not collect data on homes for sale on the open market. However, we do collect data on the number of private dwellings that are built and these are presented in the following table.

Communities and Local Government do not define an area for South West London so we have provided figures on the number of new properties for each London borough for 2002 to 2006 as follows:

Number of private enterprise units completed

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
Merton	—	—	—	—	330
Barking and Dagenham	214	—	294	217	198
Barnet	496	813	892	509	300
Bexley	309	474	345	70	133
Brent	244	—	—	—	—
Bromley	—	—	—	—	—
Camden	—	108	305	154	—
City of London	128	291	56	49	2
Croydon	358	291	245	272	513
Ealing	115	425	405	—	447
Enfield	219	371	208	307	372
Greenwich	1,336	723	1,188	871	834
Hackney	—	—	—	—	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	45	—	110	112	108
Haringey	—	—	—	63	—
Harrow	367	262	235	284	—
Havering	—	285	374	457	—
Hillingdon	—	—	260	233	189
Hounslow	—	712	433	631	433
Islington	208	141	164	309	427
Kensington and Chelsea	246	484	117	41	107
Kingston upon Thames	194	410	389	187	111
Lambeth	—	—	519	164	—
Lewisham	219	542	179	135	—
Newham	—	—	—	671	—
Redbridge	548	345	690	804	438
Richmond upon Thames	253	331	347	317	224
Southwark	—	—	1,690	1,132	—
Sutton	191	—	302	376	260
Tower Hamlets	1,045	1,660	2,648	715	—
Waltham Forest	38	55	89	175	157
Wandsworth	—	608	749	293	433
Westminster	620	854	—	—	—
London	11,302	14,962	17,694	13,048	13,289

[1] Data for 2006 is provisional.

Source:
Local Authority P2 housebuilding return and NHBC figures.

Housing: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* affordable and *(b)* social houses were built in Hartlepool constituency in each of the last five years. [130905]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of affordable and social rent homes provided in Hartlepool in each of the last five years are tabled as follows. Some affordable homes are provided through the acquisition and refurbishment of dwellings purchased on the open market, these figures have been included.

Affordable housing has been classified to include homes for social and intermediate rent as well as those provided thorough low cost homeownership schemes. Local authorities can require contributions towards affordable housing as part of Section 106 agreements.

Affordable homes provided: Hartlepool

	All affordable homes	Of which: social rent
2001-02	7	7
2002-03	0	0
2003-04	25	14
2004-05	14	14
2005-06	0	0

Source:
Housing Corporation

Housing: Inspections

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many qualified *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* domestic energy assessors there are on the (i) Buildings Research Establishment, (ii) Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and (iii) SAVA Government-accredited schemes. [129069]

Yvette Cooper: As at 23 March there were 1,085 home inspector candidates who had successfully passed their exam. There were over 3,000 DEA candidates who were in or about to begin training, all of whom could qualify by June.

All home inspector certification schemes are operated by private companies, so enquiries on their current membership would be more appropriately addressed to individual schemes.

The contact details for the three schemes are:

(i) Building Research Establishment

Telephone: 01923 664947

Email: enquiries@breinspector.co.uk

(ii) Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors

Telephone: 0870 333 1600

Email: safeas@rics.org

(iii) Surveyors and Valuers Association

Telephone: 0870 837 6500

Email: info@sava-cs.org.uk

Accreditation schemes for domestic energy assessors are in the process of being approved by the Secretary of State, and will receive formal approval shortly. As no approval has yet been made details cannot be provided.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department provides to government-accredited schemes to train *(a)* home inspectors and *(b)* domestic energy assessors. [129070]

Yvette Cooper: No public funding has been provided to the commercial companies currently offering training courses to prospective home inspectors and domestic energy assessors.

The trainees themselves are responsible for payment of their own fees, but have access to the range of Government-backed schemes such as career development loans which are available to those wishing to upgrade their skills or undertake a new career.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to provide *(a)* low cost housing for sale and *(b)* affordable rented housing over the next three years. [130153]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 29 March 2007]*: We are on course to meet the target of delivering 30,000 social rented homes by 2008, a 50 per cent. increase on 2004-05.

We are expanding our programme of low cost home ownership, building on innovative private financing to help more people into partial ownership on a shared equity basis. We expect 120,000 households to access home ownership through publicly funded shared equity schemes in the five years to 2010.

Investment for 2008-09 to 2010-11 and plans for increasing social housing supply will be subject to the outcome of Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

Housing: Racial Discrimination

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what sanctions are applicable to housing bodies which fail to take account of the needs of the Irish community under the requirements of race equality schemes. [128209]

Yvette Cooper: If a body with housing functions is specified in Schedule 1A of the Race Relations Act 1976 ("RRA") when carrying out its functions it will be subject to the general duty in section 71(1) RRA. This is a duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups. Breaching this duty could make the body subject to a judicial review challenge by the Commission for Racial Equality or any interested party.

Additionally, the body may also be subject to the specific duty in section 71(2) RRA, the purpose of which is to ensure the body's better performance of the general duty. If subject to the specific duty, the body will be under a duty to publish a race equality scheme which must state, among other things, the functions and policies or proposed policies it has assessed to be relevant to the performance of its general duty, the arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of its proposed policies on the promotion of race equality and arrangements for monitoring its policies for any adverse impact on the promotion of race equality. In assessing whether the body has complied with its specific duty it would be necessary to consider that body's individual race equality scheme. Failure to comply with the specific duty may leave the body open to a compliance notice being served by the CRE under s71D RRA.

Depending on the facts of the case, a failure to comply with its s71 duties may also leave the body open to a claim of unlawful race discrimination.

Housing: West Midlands

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* social rented homes and *(b)* low cost home ownership properties have been built or acquired in each local authority in the West Midlands in each year since 1997; and how many included a contribution from section 106 planning gain. [120529]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of social rent and low cost home ownership homes built or acquired in each local authority in the West Midlands, in each year since 1991-92, have been placed in the Library of the House. The numbers of homes provided with a contribution from a section 106 agreement are also shown.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes for sale on the open market have been built in *(a)* Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and *(b)* the West Midlands in each year since 1997. [120531]

Yvette Cooper: Communities and Local Government do not collect data on homes for sale on the open market. However we do collect data on the number of private dwellings that are built and these are presented in the following table.

Number of private enterprise units completed

	(a) Sandwell metropolitan borough council	*(b) West Midlands region*[1]
2002	—	12,841
2003	—	12,584
2004	—	12,669
2005	984	14,870
2006[2]	749	13,928

[1] House building data for the West Midlands regional total includes imputation for missing local authority returns.
[2] Data for 2006 are provisional.
Source:
Local authority P2 house building return and NHBC figures

IPPR

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Disability Rights Commission has provided to *(a)* the IPPR and *(b)* IPPR Trading Ltd. in each year since May 1997; and for what purpose. [125728]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

As the Disability Rights Commission's financial transactions are an operational matter, I have asked the Commission's chief executive to write to you in answer to your question, and I understand that he has done so.

Land Use: Planning

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what form the forthcoming proposals for reform of land use planning will be published; on what date they will be published; and if she will make a statement. [129508]

Yvette Cooper: Later this spring, the Government will set out in a White Paper its response to Kate Barker's recommendations for improving the speed, responsiveness and efficiency in land use planning. It will also make proposals for taking forward Kate Barker and Rod Eddington's recommendations for reform of major infrastructure planning. A statement will be made at the time of publication.

Local Authority Land Sales

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidelines there are on the process of land sale decisions by local authorities; what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of such decisions being taken without public knowledge or discussion; and if she will make a statement. [130040]

Yvette Cooper: No general guidelines have been issued to local authorities in relation to the sale of local authority land. However, local authorities have general and discretionary powers under s.123 of the Local Government Act 1972 to dispose of land in any manner they wish. The Secretary of State's only statutory function is to give or refuse consent to a proposed disposal where the authority will receive less than the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained which is usually the open market value of the site.

The General Disposal Consent issued in August 2003 in ODPM Circular 06/2003 gave local authorities a very wide discretion in relation to their land disposals and enables them to make disposals which will contribute to the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of an area at less than best consideration provided the undervalue does not exceed £2 million. The circular provides advice on making an application for a disposal that falls outside the terms of the general consent and it also makes it clear that, when disposing of land an undervalue, authorities should remain aware of the need to fulfil their fiduciary duty in a way that is accountable to local people.

If the land is held planning purposes it can be disposed of by means of a specific consent under s.233 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Disposal consents have also been issued in relation to housing land under the Housing Act 1985.

Local Government Executive

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities in England have elected mayors, broken down by mayoral model; on what date a mayor was first elected in each such local authority; and when the date is of the next election in each case. [129747]

Ruth Kelly: 12 local authorities in England have elected mayors. Their details, including mayoral elections, are as follows:

Authority	*Model*	*Inaugural election*	*Second election*	*Next election*
Bedford Borough Council	Mayor and Cabinet	October 2002	—	May 2007
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	Mayor and Cabinet	May 2002	May 2005	May 2009
Hartlepool Borough Council	Mayor and Cabinet	May 2002	May 2005	May 2009
London Borough of Hackney	Mayor and Cabinet	October 2002	May 2006	May 2010
London Borough of Lewisham	Mayor and Cabinet	May 2002	May 2006	May 2010
London Borough of Newham	Mayor and Cabinet	May 2002	May 2006	May 2010
Mansfield District Council	Mayor and Cabinet	October 2002	—	May 2007
Middlesbrough Council	Mayor and Cabinet	May 2002	—	May 2007
North Tyneside Council[1]	Mayor and Cabinet	May 2002	May 2005	May 2009
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	Mayor and Council Manager	October 2002	May 2005	May 2009
Torbay Council	Mayor and Cabinet	October 2005	—	May 2011
Watford Borough Council	Mayor and Cabinet	October 2002	May 2006	May 2010

[1] In addition, a by-election for the mayor took place on 12 June 2003.

Local Government Finance: Housing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total housing debt was for each local authority in each year since 1996; how much principal debt was paid off in each year; how the repayments were financed; what the cost was to each local authority of servicing the debt; and how many homes were owned by each authority. [107142]

Yvette Cooper: I have arranged for a table showing the total housing debt for each local authority for each year since 1996 to be placed in the Library of the House. From 2001-02 onwards authorities with no notional housing debt (the assumed housing debt for the purposes of HRA subsidy) were not required to submit this data to Communities and Local Government.

The Department does not collect data on the actual amount of principal housing debt repaid each year. I have arranged for a table showing the amount each authority was obliged to set aside from the disposal of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) assets since 1996 to be placed in the Library of the House. Set-aside does not equate to debt actually redeemed, as local authorities may make a treasury management decision to keep the housing debt on their books rather than repay it, investing the set-aside elsewhere.

The Department does not keep data on how local authorities finance their housing debt repayments, nor does it have data on what the cost was to each local authority of servicing the housing debt. We only have data of the consolidated rate of interest (CRI) which is the average rate of interest a local authority pays across all its borrowing. The CRI for each year is in the table.

I have arranged for a table showing dwellings owned by each local authority for each year since 1996 to be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the *(a)* elements and *(b)* totals of housing revenue subsidy were in each year since 1990; and what estimate she has made of each for the next 20 years; [107144]

(2) what housing subsidy has been paid to local authorities with council housing in each year since 1990. [107145]

Yvette Cooper: Data for the years 1990-93 inclusive can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Details of housing revenue account subsidy entitlements for individual authorities separated by main income and expenditure items for the years 1994-95 to 2004-05 inclusive are included in a table that has been deposited in the Library of the House.

No estimates have been made covering the next 20 years.

Lyons Inquiry

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost was to the public purse of the Lyons Report on local government finance. [131133]

Mr. Woolas: The Lyons Inquiry is estimated to cost about £1.76 million. In addition, about £464,637 of funding has been provided by the Government for research commissioned by the Inquiry.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Sir Michael Lyons' report will be *(a)* vetted and *(b)* amended by Government Ministers before its publication. [129682]

Ruth Kelly: The Lyons Inquiry into Local Government was an independent report, and Sir Michael Lyons was entirely responsible for its contents.

Mortgages: Climate Change

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many lenders offer a green mortgage in preparation for the introduction of energy performance estimates; and if she will make a statement. [129358]

Yvette Cooper: We are aware of four lending bodies who currently offer 'green mortgage' products, others have said they are interested in developing products. As the Chancellor stated in the Budget, the Government expect the introduction of Energy Performance Certificates and other initiatives to provide the potential for the market for 'green' financial products to develop further.

Motorway Service Areas

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will postpone relevant determination of a start date for public inquiry into motorway services until such time as all relevant parties are in receipt of agreements and reports currently being negotiated between the Highways Agency, Birmingham International airport, Swayfields and Shirley Estates. [130471]

Ruth Kelly: The inquiry arranged for 12 June into two proposed motorway service areas (MSAs) has been postponed so that negotiations between the Highways Agency (HA) and Swayfields and Shirley Estates (the two developers) can proceed. Detailed nighway proposals can then be considered by the Rule 6 parties prior to the inquiry. The new start date for the inquiry will be discussed at a pre-inquiry meeting to be held on 12 June. It is not considered the non-publication of a finalised Birmingham International airport (BIA) Master Plan or the Birmingham International airport surface access report will prevent the inquiry proceeding.

Parish Councils

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many town and parish councils in England have achieved quality parish council status. [129746]

Ruth Kelly: There are currently 405 town and parish councils in England which have achieved quality parish council status.

Public Requests Ordering Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to make the public aware of the right to make Public Requests Ordering Disposal under Section 98 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980. [103849]

Yvette Cooper: Public Requests Ordering Disposal (PROD) were introduced in the early 1980's as a device to encourage derelict land and buildings to be sold for development although their use has been limited due to the nature of the process involved. The Government have already given local authorities greater responsibility for encouraging re-use of derelict land and buildings through the planning system and through their empty homes powers.

The Quirk Review is considering the scope for facilitating community management and ownership of assets and we will await its recommendations regarding whether there is a need to take steps to promote public awareness of their right to make PRODs as a part of this review.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department allocated to Hartlepool Borough Council for highways maintenance and repair in each of the last five years; and if she will increase in real terms the amount provided in the next three years. [131395]

Mr. Woolas: Highway maintenance is one of the services supported by formula grant. Formula grant, which comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula police grant, where appropriate, is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. authorities are free to spend the money on any service. For this reason, and due to the method of calculating formula grant, particularly floor damping,

it is not possible to say how much grant an authority received for any particular service.

The comprehensive spending review 2007 will set the framework for support to local authorities for 2008-09 to 2010-11 to enable them to deliver effective services. We have been working closely with local government in the context of the spending review to ensure that we identify the pressures that councils face, along with the scope for efficiencies.

Social Rented Housing

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much land is owned by *(a)* the Housing Corporation and *(b)* English Partnerships; and what estimate she has made of its value. [130123]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Corporation predominantly pursues its objectives through the provision of grant funding and does not currently own any land.

English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency, owns over 8,000 hectares of land being held for phased redevelopment and disposal, with an estimated market value of £1,838 million as at March 2006.

Unitary Councils: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what process she expects South Bedfordshire district council and Mid Bedfordshire district council to follow during the consultation exercise on the unitary proposals for Bedfordshire; and if she will make a statement. [131568]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Bedford (Patrick Hall) and the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous) of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1733W. South Bedfordshire district council and Mid Bedfordshire district council may choose to respond to the consultation by proposing support for the Bedfordshire county council unitary proposal or by proposing support for the Bedford borough proposal, and in doing so, may suggest that the remainder of the county also be made unitary.

Written Questions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will answer the questions tabled by the hon. Member for Meriden on *(a)* 9 January 2007 (114760) and *(b)* 22 November 2006 (103902) on Home Information Packs. [130880]

Yvette Cooper: I replied to the hon. Member's question (103902) on 11 April 2007. I will answer question (114760) shortly, I apologise for the delay.

Yalberton Valley

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will remove from her Department's website reference to Paignton West (Yalberton Valley) as the preferred site in relation to the New Growth Points application in Torbay; and if she will make a statement. [128196]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 20 March 2007]:* There is no reference to Paignton West (Yalberton Valley), as a preferred site in relation to the New Growth Point or otherwise, on the Torbay New Growth Point page of the Department's website. The page does refer to:

> (a) the provision of infrastructure to open up employment areas at Yalberton road, Paignton, but I think this refers to employment development already proposed in the adopted local plan; and,
>
> (b) a new sustainable community, for the public to debate as part of the Local Development Framework. Torbay council identified a location at the Yalberton Valley as one of several options for this new community, but my information is that no decision has been taken. As the website says, decisions on whether to develop a new community, and where, are matters for the Local Development Framework, which will be the subject of community involvement and public examination by an independent planning inspector.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adoption: China

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average length of time for the process for an adult in the UK to adopt a child from China was in each of the last five years; what the current time scale is; and if he will make a statement. [128916]

Mr. Dhanda: There is no centrally held information on the average length of time it takes an adult in the UK to adopt a child from China from the initial approach of the prospective adopters to their adoption agency until an adoption order is made.

There are a number of stages to the intercountry adoption process. These comprise: assessment by a UK adoption agency; the issuing of a Certificate of Eligibility by the Department for Education and Skills; notarisation; legalisation (at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Chinese embassy in London); and processing of the application by relevant authorities in China.

After-school Clubs: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many places were available in after-school clubs for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age children in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each year since 1997. [130932]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested about child care places broken down by primary and secondary school age children is not collected. The available information on the number of registered child care places in out-of-school clubs for children under eight in East Sussex local authority area is shown in the following tables.

The latest figures on registered child care providers and places are available on the following website www.ofsted.gov.uk/.

Table 1: Number[1,2] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age East Sussex Position at 31 March each year 1997 to 2002

	Number of places
1997	290
1998	230
1999	480
2000	430
2001	480
2002	[3]...

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 places.
[2] Data Source: Children's Day Care Facilities Survey.
[3] Not available.

Table 2: Number[1,2] of registered child care places in out of school day care for children under eight years of age East Sussex Position at 31 March each year 2003 to 2006

	Number of places
2003	2,000
2004	2,600
2005	2,700
2006	2,900

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 or 100 places.
[2] Data Source: Ofsted

Apprenticeships

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of apprenticeship training providers funded by the Learning and Skills Council were employers in each year since 1997. [128576]

Phil Hope: Data on Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships are collected on the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The table shows the percentage of apprenticeship training providers funded by the LSC that were "private organisations in their own right" or "other private organisations". Included within these proportions are employers whose main business activity is the provision of education and training. We are unable to identify such employers separately.

	Percentage of providers that were employers
2002/03	70
2003/04	67
2004/05	67
2005/06	66

Children: Day Care

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many free part-time nursery education places there were for *(a)* three-year-olds and *(b)* four-year-olds in schools in England in each year from 1997 to 2007; and what proportion of the age group each figure represents. [131152]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the table. Information relating to 2007 will be available in May.

Number of free nursery education places[1] taken up by three and four-year-olds England Position in January each year

	3-year-olds				4-year-olds			
			Total 3-year-olds				Total 4-year-olds	
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[2]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	Number	Percentage	Maintained nursery and primary schools[2]	Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers	Number	Percentage
1997	214,200	[4]...	214,200	33.8	[4]...	[4]...	[5]576,200	88.9
1998	222,000	[4]...	222,000	35.4	[4]...	[4]...	[5]591, 500	93.2
1999	225,700	[4]...	225,700	37.0	[4]...	[4]...	[5]593,800	94.7
2000	229,900	[6]40,300	270,200	44.1	[4]...	[4]...	[5]598,500	97.7
2001	226,600	[6]108,800	335,400	55.4	[4]...	[4]...	[5]589,300	96.2
2002	223,500	[6]184,700	408,300	68.8	477,700	[7]106,820	584,500	97.3
2003	218,700	[6]226,100	444,800	76.9	472,200	[7]109,600	581,800	98.1
2004	215,300	[6]246,200	461 ,600	82.0	461,100	[8]110,000	571,200	98.5
2005	214,300	[6]259,800	474,000	85.1	449,500	[9]104,400	553,900	98.3
2006	215,500	[6]268,000	483,500	85.9	442,200	[9]104,000	546,200	98.0

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[2] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.
[3] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Annual Schools' Census.
[4] Not available.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the Annual Schools' Census.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Annual Schools' Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release 32/2006 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2006 (final)" in August, which is available on the Department's website

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many child care places were available in England in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006. [131153]

Beverley Hughes: As at 31 March 1997 there were 637,700 registered child care places[1] in England. The equivalent figure for 2006 is 1,254,400.

The latest figures on registered child care providers and places are available on the following website, www.ofsted.gov.uk/

[1] Local authorities were responsible for the registration and inspection of children's day care facilities until these responsibilities were transferred to Ofsted in September 2001. With the introduction of the National Day Care Standards and the transfer of responsibilities for registration and inspection of child care providers from local authority social service departments to Ofsted in September 2001, child care places were classified according to the type of day care provided. Previously, child care places were classified according to the type of provider. The figures for 1997 include child minders, day nurseries and out of school clubs. The figures for 2006 include child minders, full day care and out of school care.

City Academies

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what evidence and analysis informed the decision to extend the target for academies from 200 to 400 by 2010. [128186]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The decision was informed by the large body of evidence which shows that academies are an effective way of improving performance in underperforming schools and that despite the overall rise in education standards over the last decade there will remain a significant number of schools beyond the initial target of 200 academies which are underperforming and would benefit by becoming an academy.

The percentage of pupils getting five good GCSEs including English and Maths in academies improved last year alone by 6.2 percentage points—six times better than the national improvement rate of one percentage point—and all 21 academies which had students who took GCSEs in 2006 are above the floor targets; 18 of the 24 predecessor schools they replaced were below.

Academies are making dramatic improvements at key stage three—above the national average—with rises last year of 8.1 percentage points in English, 9 percentage points in Maths and 10.5 percentage points in Science compared to previous validated results.

Sixteen academies have had full Ofsted inspections. Key to the future success of the academies is their leadership and management. On this indicator, Ofsted has classed two academies as outstanding, 10 as good, three as satisfactory and one as inadequate.

Academies are popular with parents. There were three applications for each academy place in September 2006. Almost all academies were oversubscribed on opening and each year afterwards.

There is growing support from local authorities. For example, Manchester city council has ambitious plans for eight academies across the city—strategically targeting underperforming schools in disadvantaged communities and forming part of wider programmes of regeneration.

Last year's independent PricewaterhouseCoopers evaluation of academies found strong pupil and teacher support for academies. It included a survey reporting that 81 per cent. of pupils thought their school work had improved since joining the academy and that total attendance in academies had risen and at a faster rate than the national average.

All of the above were factors in the decision to expand the programme to 400. The case has since been reinforced by the positive findings of the NAO report on academies published last month, which found that academies are

"on track to deliver good value for money".

The NAO concluded that academies are improving performance compared with predecessor schools, and that the improvement is faster than in comparable schools.

City Academies: Admissions

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills with which provisions of the school admissions code academies are not required to comply; and if he will make a statement. [118564]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 7 February 2007]:* Academies are required to comply with the admissions code in full; there are no provisions from which they are exempt.

City Academies: Qualifications

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has *(a)* to pilot and *(b)* to introduce specialised 14-19 diplomas in academies. [130746]

Jim Knight: Yesterday we announced the first 145 consortia (groups of schools, colleges and training providers) that have been given approval to offer one or more of the first five 14-19 diplomas from September 2008. The five 14-19 diplomas to be offered from September are: Creative and Media; Society, Health and Development; IT; Construction and the Built Environment; and, Engineering. There are 20 academies involved in successful consortiums, and, as a group, they will contribute to provision across all five diplomas. Each of the diplomas will be piloted for three academic years following its introduction.

Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the evidential basis was for the statement in the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's 2006 Annual Review that there is a broad consensus on the purposes, values and aims for the curriculum. [130269]

Jim Knight: The statement in the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's Annual Review was based on an extensive informal consultation on the purposes, values and aims for the curriculum with a wide variety of groups. This included some 45,000 teachers and headteachers; 1,000 professionals from local authorities; 2,000 pupils and around 3,000 other stakeholders.

Education: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether research has been funded

by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on the empirical validity of the zone of proximal development concept referred to by the Chief Executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in his speech of 21 March. [130315]

Jim Knight: Neither the Department nor the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) has funded any specific research into the concept of zone of proximal development.

Education: Standards

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average *(a)* contextualised value-added scores and *(b)* value-added scores were in each (i) selective, (ii) partially selective and (iii) comprehensive local education authority according to the most recent available figures. [129187]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 March 2006]:* Information on the key stage 2-4 contextualised value-added measures for 2005/06 by local authority and their admissions policy is shown in the following table.

For the most recent year (2005/06) it is only possible to provide contextualised value-added figures as value-added figures were not calculated.

Contextualised value added measures for pupils at the end of key stage 4[1] in 2005/06[2] by gender—for each local authority[3] and Government office region

Government office region / *Local authority*	*KS2-KS4 CVA measure* Boys	Girls	Total	*Local authority admissions policy[4]*
North East	1,003.0	1,000.0	1,001.5	
Hartlepool	1,003.2	1,001.2	1,002.2	Comprehensive
Middlesbrough	995.1	997.0	996.0	Comprehensive
Redcar and Cleveland	995.3	991.8	993.6	Comprehensive
Stockton on Tees	998.1	996.2	997.2	Comprehensive
Darlington	987.4	978.8	982.9	Comprehensive
Durham	1,001.4	1,001.4	1,001.4	Comprehensive
Northumberland	1,010.3	1,002.5	1,006.4	Comprehensive
Gateshead	1,012.9	1,016.3	1,014.7	Comprehensive
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,007.0	1,003.6	1,005.4	Comprehensive
North Tyneside	1,004.0	1,001.2	1,002.7	Comprehensive
South Tyneside	1,007.3	997.4	1,002.4	Comprehensive
Sunderland	1,002.1	998.3	1,000.2	Comprehensive
North West	999.5	999.6	999.5	
Halton	1,006.0	999.4	1,002.9	Comprehensive
Warrington	1,002.1	999.2	1,000.6	Comprehensive
Cheshire	999.1	995.8	997.5	Comprehensive
Cumbria	991.7	995.4	993.5	Partially Selective
Bolton	998.4	998.0	998.2	Comprehensive
Bury	999.3	995.9	997.7	Comprehensive
Manchester	1,007.3	1,003.8	1,005.6	Comprehensive
Oldham	987.1	994.0	990.4	Comprehensive
Rochdale	1,002.9	1,000.0	1,001.5	Comprehensive
Salford	992.5	996.8	994.6	Comprehensive
Stockport	995.7	996.1	995.9	Comprehensive
Tameside	989.4	994.9	992.2	Comprehensive
Trafford	1,008.3	1,010.8	1,009.6	Selective
Wigan	1,000.8	1,002.2	1,001.5	Comprehensive
Blackburn with Darwen	1,000.7	1,004.3	1,002.4	Comprehensive
Blackpool	998.0	993.5	995.7	Comprehensive
Lancashire	999.4	998.0	998.7	Partially Selective
Knowsley	1,000.3	1,003.4	1,001.8	Comprehensive
Liverpool	1,009.7	1,012.6	1,011.2	Partially Selective
St. Helens	994.9	992.1	993.5	Comprehensive
Sefton	1,004.2	1,001.0	1,002.6	Comprehensive
Wirral	1,006.5	1,009.0	1,007.8	Partially Selective
Yorkshire and Humber	994.7	996.6	995.6	
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,009.8	1,002.9	1,006.4	Comprehensive
Kingston-upon-Hull	982.6	996.1	989.4	Comprehensive
North East Lincolnshire	993.4	987.4	990.4	Comprehensive
North Lincolnshire	996.8	996.3	996.5	Comprehensive
York	1,004.7	999.8	1,002.3	Comprehensive
North Yorkshire	1,004.5	999.6	1,002.1	Partially Selective
Barnsley	1,002.2	1,008.9	1,005.6	Comprehensive
Doncaster	992.1	997.6	994.8	Comprehensive
Rotherham	991.9	999.9	995.8	Comprehensive
Sheffield	993.3	995.7	994.4	Comprehensive
Bradford	995.2	1,001.6	998.3	Comprehensive
Calderdale	990.1	992.6	991.3	Partially Selective
Kirklees	988.9	989.0	988.9	Partially Selective
Leeds	984.1	986.4	985.2	Comprehensive
Wakefield	999.3	1,003.1	1,001.2	Comprehensive
East Midlands	996.3	997.0	996.6	
Derby	1,007.0	1,001.4	1,004.2	Comprehensive
Derbyshire	1,001.1	1,001.9	1,001.5	Comprehensive
Leicester City	989.9	992.2	991.0	Comprehensive
Rutland	1,002.2	998.4	1,000.3	Comprehensive
Leicestershire	989.6	992.6	991.1	Comprehensive
Lincolnshire	1,007.5	1,004.6	1,006.1	Partially Selective
Northamptonshire	992.0	992.2	992.1	Comprehensive
Nottingham City	996.7	1,003.4	1,000.1	Comprehensive
Nottinghamshire	989.9	991.8	990.8	Comprehensive
West Midlands	998.8	1,000.8	999.8	
Herefordshire	1,006.0	1,005.2	1,005.6	Comprehensive
Worcestershire	1,007.0	1,004.9	1,006.0	Comprehensive
Telford and The Wrekin	1,006.5	1,003.3	1,005.0	Partially Selective
Shropshire	1,003.4	1,005.8	1,004.6	Comprehensive
Stoke on Trent	995.6	998.6	996.1	Partially Selective
Staffordshire	994.9	998.6	996.7	Comprehensive

Contextualised value added measures for pupils at the end of key stage 4[1] in 2005/06[2] by gender—for each local authority[3] and Government office region

Government office region / Local authority	*KS2-KS4 CVA measure*			*Local authority admissions policy[4]*
	Boys	*Girls*	*Total*	
Warwickshire	999.3	997.6	998.5	Partially Selective
Birmingham	999.8	1,004.4	1,002.1	Partially Selective
Coventry	998.4	994.8	996.6	Comprehensive
Dudley	1,002.8	1,004.4	1,003.5	Comprehensive
Sandwell	997.6	994.9	996.3	Comprehensive
Solihull	994.0	996.3	995.1	Comprehensive
Walsall	984.8	997.0	990.6	Partially Selective
Wolverhampton	995.3	1,004.4	999.9	Partially Selective
East of England	1,001.7	1,001.8	1,001.7	
Luton	993.9	993.1	993.5	Comprehensive
Bedfordshire	999.7	1,001.1	1,000.4	Comprehensive
City of Peterborough	1,005.1	1,005.6	1,005.4	Comprehensive
Cambridgeshire	1,004.8	1,002.6	1,003.7	Comprehensive
Southend	1,000.6	1,001.7	1,001.2	Selective
Thurrock	1,003.3	1,011.5	1,007.5	Comprehensive
Essex	998.1	1,000.4	999.2	Partially Selective
Hertfordshire	1,000.5	999.4	1,000.0	Comprehensive
Norfolk	1,005.4	1,000.4	1,003.0	Comprehensive
Suffolk	1,007.3	1,008.7	1,008.1	Comprehensive
London	1,005.6	1,007.1	1,006.3	
Inner London	1,009.3	1,012.4	1,010.9	
Camden	998.5	1,002.9	1,001.2	Comprehensive
Hackney	1,007.2	1,025.9	1,019.1	Comprehensive
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,012.7	1,008.2	1,010.5	Comprehensive
Haringey	1,011.3	1,010.9	1,011.2	Comprehensive
Islington	1,010.2	1,021.3	1,015.6	Comprehensive
Kensington and Chelsea	1,013.9	1,001.1	1,008.5	Comprehensive
Lambeth	1,017.9	1,012.6	1,015.1	Comprehensive
Lewisham	1,007.5	1,012.9	1,010.3	Comprehensive
Newham	1,006.9	1,019.0	1,013.0	Comprehensive
Southwark	1,014.9	1,014.7	1,014.9	Comprehensive
Tower Hamlets	1,017.8	1,016.7	1,017.4	Comprehensive
Wandsworth	1,014.4	998.8	1,007.5	Comprehensive
Westminster	974.6	995.7	985.8	Comprehensive
Outer London	1,004.0	1,004.7	1,004.3	
Barking and Dagenham	1,002.6	1,007.1	1,004.8	Comprehensive
Barnet	1,008.1	1,007.8	1,008.0	Partially Selective
Bexley	1,001.2	1,000.8	1,001.0	Partially Selective
Brent	1,006.3	1,005.4	1,005.9	Comprehensive
Bromley	1,014.4	1,000.6	1,007.5	Partially Selective
Croydon	1,000.2	1,005.8	1,003.1	Comprehensive
Ealing	1,013.6	1,009.8	1,011.7	Comprehensive
Enfield	1,001.0	1,001.9	1,001.5	Partially Selective
Greenwich	1,000.3	1,007.4	1,003.9	Comprehensive
Harrow	1,012.0	1,015.1	1,013.6	Comprehensive
Havering	1,004.4	1,000.8	1,002.7	Comprehensive
Hillingdon	987.5	991.5	989.5	Comprehensive
Hounslow	998.1	1,004.4	1,001.3	Comprehensive
Kingston upon Thames	996.9	1,005.2	1,001.3	Partially Selective
Merton	989.1	992.9	990.8	Comprehensive
Redbridge	1,018.7	1,015.9	1,017.4	Partially Selective
Richmond upon Thames	988.6	989.5	988.9	Comprehensive
Sutton	997.9	1,003.6	1,000.8	Partially Selective
Waltham Forest	1,017.0	1,017.2	1,017.2	Comprehensive
South East	1,002.0	1,000.9	1,001.5	
Bracknell Forest	992.6	1,000.2	996.3	Comprehensive
Windsor and Maidenhead	998.6	1,003.7	1,001.0	Comprehensive
West Berkshire	1,009.8	1,004.8	1,007.4	Comprehensive
Reading	998.0	990.8	994.3	Partially Selective
Slough	993.0	1,001.0	996.9	Selective
Wokingham	995.6	996.2	995.9	Comprehensive
Milton Keynes	1,001.9	999.7	1,000.8	Comprehensive
Buckinghamshire	997.1	996.1	996.6	Selective
Brighton and Hove	1,006.5	1,001.7	1,004.1	Comprehensive
East Sussex	1,010.8	1,009.3	1,010.1	Comprehensive
Portsmouth	992.8	998.9	995.8	Comprehensive
Southampton	994.9	1,006.1	1,000.5	Comprehensive
Hampshire	1,001.6	1,000.2	1,000.9	Comprehensive
Isle of Wight	999.4	996.3	997.8	Comprehensive
Medway	1,009.5	1,004.0	1,006.7	Selective
Kent	1,006.4	1,004.0	1,005.2	Selective
Oxfordshire	1,002.8	1,001.0	1,001.9	Comprehensive
Surrey	995.5	995.4	995.5	Comprehensive
West Sussex	1,003.0	1,000.5	1,001.8	Comprehensive
South West	1,001.9	1,001.4	1,001.6	
Bath and NE Somerset	1,007.4	1,002.9	1,005.0	Comprehensive
Bristol	995.0	992.0	993.5	Comprehensive
North Somerset	995.1	994.7	994.9	Comprehensive
South Gloucestershire	992.8	993.7	993.2	Comprehensive
Cornwall	1,006.7	1,005.7	1,006.2	Comprehensive
Isles of Scilly	1,018.6	1,015.8	1,023.4	Comprehensive
Torbay	996.8	998.0	997.3	Selective
City of Plymouth	1,001.3	1,002.4	1,001.8	Partially Selective
Devon	1,002.8	1,003.6	1,003.2	Partially Selective
Bournemouth	990.6	997.7	994.0	Partially Selective
Poole	1,012.5	1,002.5	1,007.5	Partially Selective
Dorset	1,009.5	1,008.7	1,009.1	Comprehensive
Gloucestershire	1,003.6	1,000.8	1,002.2	Partially Selective

Contextualised value added measures for pupils at the end of key stage 4[1] in 2005/06[2] by gender—for each local authority[3] and Government office region

Government office region	*KS2-KS4 CVA measure*			
Local authority	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Total*	*Local authority admissions policy[5]*
Somerset	998.5	1,001.2	999.8	Comprehensive
Swindon	995.1	993.1	994.2	Comprehensive
Wiltshire	1,004.7	1,004.3	1,004.5	Partially Selective
Total (maintained sector)	1,000.4	1,000.7	1,000.6	
England average[4]	1,000.4	1,000.7	1,000.6	

[1] Number of pupils on roll at the end of key stage 4 in the 2005/06 academic year.
[2] Including attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years.
[3] Local authority, Government office region and total (maintained sector) figures are adjusted for pupils recently arrived from overseas.
[4] England averages include all schools.
[5] A partially selective local authority has less than 25 per cent. of 13 year old pupils on roll attending one or more selective schools. A selective local authority has 25 per cent. or more 13 year old pupils on roll attending one or more selective schools. A comprehensive local authority is where all of its pupils are attending comprehensive schools. (Definition used in the 2006 Schools White Paper.)
Source:
GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2005/06 (Revised)—Table 19
[http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000702/index.shtml]

Education: Surveys

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 943W, on education: surveys, if he will place in the Library copies of the interim reports presented to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on 21 March 2007 referred to in the tender documents for analysis of responses to the secondary curriculum review. [130266]

Jim Knight: We have no plans to publish the interim report presented to the QCA on 21 March.

This was an internal milestone report for the QCA produced in order to ensure appropriate contract management of the survey.

ESOL

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the budget was for English for Speakers of Other Languages provision over the last five years. [131005]

Bill Rammell: Since 2001, the funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) has been provided through the Skills for Life strategy in response to regional and local demand.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) calculates the total amounts spent on ESOL as £103 million in 2000/01, £185 million in 2001/02, £235 million in 2002/03, £267 million in 2003/04 and £279 million in 2004/05. The 2005/06 final spend has yet to be confirmed by the LSC; figures prior to 2000/01 are not available as ESOL only became part of the Skills for Life strategy in 2001.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total monetary contribution to the English for Speakers of Other Languages programme was from employers in each of the last five years. [131010]

Bill Rammell: Since 2001, the funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) has been fully funded through the Skills for Life strategy in response to regional and local demand.

Employers (and individuals) are currently not required to contribute to ESOL programmes. However, we are committed to taking forward the dialogue with social partners about securing employer contributions to the cost of learning. New ESOL for Work qualifications will be introduced from September and will have a stronger focus on the language skills needed for the work environment through shorter, less expensive, more work-focused qualifications.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of students enrolled on English for Speakers of Other Languages programmes are on full fee remission. [130992]

Bill Rammell: All students currently enrolled on English for Speakers of Other Languages programmes are on full fee remission.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people participated in English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in each London borough in each of the last five academic years for which figures are available. [130993]

Bill Rammell: This information is collected by the national Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and I have asked Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, to write to my hon. Friend with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the Library.

GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of GCSE-age pupils attempted a full GCSE in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* science, *(d)* design and technology, *(e)* information and communication technology, *(f)* physical education, *(g)* history, *(h)* geography, *(i)* art and design, *(j)* music and *(k)* a modern foreign language in each of the last 10 years; [128400]

(2) how many and what proportion of GCSE-age pupils eligible for free school meals attempted a full GCSE in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* science, *(d)* design and technology, *(e)* information and communication technology, *(f)* physical education, *(g)* history, *(h)* geography, *(i)* art and design, *(j)* music and *(k)* a modern foreign language in each of the last 10 years. [128401]

Jim Knight: Information on the number and percentage of pupils attempting a full GCSE by subject is shown in the following tables.

Information on the number and percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals attempting a full GCSE by subject can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

GCSE achievements of 15-year-old pupils[1] in all Schools by subject group

	Mathematics			English		Double Award Science	
	Number of 15-year-old pupils	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject
1997	586,766	533,992	91	533,348	91	439,480	75
1998	575,210	526,882	92	519,983	90	431,348	75
1999	580,972	536,779	92	530,173	91	441,897	76
2000	580,393	539,934	93	533,227	92	445,100	77
2001	603,318	563,852	93	555,392	92	464,403	77
2002	606,554	568,851	94	560,199	92	466,469	77
2003	622,122	585,017	94	577,427	93	474,451	76
2004	643,560	606,002	94	597,621	93	479,591	75
2005	636,796	600,811	94	593,648	93	447,702	70
2006	648,942	610,516	94	606,598	93	439,919	68

	Design and Technology[2]			Computer Studies		Information Technology[3]	
	Number of 15-year-old pupils	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject
1997	586,766	138,396	24	14,694	3	—	—
1998	575,210	375,453	65	42,651	7	—	—
1999	580,972	395,155	68	71,151	12	—	—
2000	580,393	404,832	70	81,148	14	—	—
2001	603,318	416,015	69	95,150	16	—	—
2002	606,554	409,414	67	97,954	16	—	—
2003	622,122	414,324	67	75,995	12	—	—
2004	643,560	408,525	63	—	—	80,565	13
2005	636,796	365,558	57	—	—	84,007	13
2006	648,942	337,233	52	—	—	89,937	14

	Physical Education			History		Geography	
	Number of 15-year-old pupils	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject
1997	586,766	80,914	14	207,486	35	259,809	44
1998	575,210	83,665	15	189,070	33	235,908	41
1999	580,972	93,503	16	188,934	33	229,802	40
2000	580,393	96,769	17	190,279	33	217,087	37
2001	603,318	105,651	18	195,231	32	220,378	37
2002	606,554	111,750	18	193,945	32	208,274	34
2003	622,122	110,744	18	194,801	31	200,127	32
2004	643,560	121,433	19	205,539	32	197,123	31
2005	636,796	141,945	22	202,595	32	186,706	29
2006	648,942	152,375	23	208,947	32	184,978	29

	Art and Design			Music		French	
	Number of 15-year-old pupils	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject
1997	586,766	194,666	33	39,691	7	306,055	52
1998	575,210	180,735	31	38,155	7	307,293	53
1999	580,972	183,157	32	40,709	7	311,384	54
2000	580,393	178,219	31	41,486	7	313,146	54
2001	603,318	180,627	30	41,625	7	321,207	53
2002	606,554	182,056	30	43,470	7	311,847	51
2003	622,122	186,968	30	47,557	8	304,472	49
2004	643,560	187,504	29	50,979	8	289,756	45
2005	636,796	184,814	29	52,228	8	243,177	38
2006	648,942	189,723	29	55,000	8	211,045	33

		German		Spanish		Other Modern Languages	
	Number of 15-year-old pupils	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject	Number of pupils entered for GCSE	Percentage of all 15-year-olds attempting subject
1997	586,766	127,510	22	34,454	6	17,791	3
1998	575,210	127,374	22	38,810	7	18,207	3
1999	580,972	129,765	22	39,523	7	18,779	3
2000	580,393	127,437	22	42,288	7	19,423	3
2001	603,318	130,627	22	45,629	8	20,317	3
2002	606,554	124,717	21	48,444	8	20,641	3
2003	622,122	120,659	19	51,299	8	21,508	3
2004	643,560	116,347	18	53,539	8	21,879	3
2005	636,796	98,712	16	51,732	8	17,697	3
2006	648,942	85,247	13	52,478	8	19,148	3

[1] Those pupils aged 15 at 31 August at the start of the academic year.
[2] Combined Syllabuses for Design and Technology and Information Systems are shown with the main subjects.
[3] Also includes Computer Studies, Information Systems and any combined syllabus of which Information Technology is the major part.

GCSE: Results

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the bottom 200 schools in terms of proportions achieving five or more GCSEs A*-C including English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language in 2006. [112152]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

This analysis is based on the revised 2006 KS4 data.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of pupils left school without at least five GCSEs at grade C or above including one in mathematics and one in English in *(a)* the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the previous 10 years. [130157]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The information requested is shown in the following table.

GCSE and equivalent attempts and achievements, 1995/96 to 2005/06[1] in England

		Pupils not achieving 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent inc. GCSEs in English and mathematics	
	Number of pupils[2]	Number	Percentage
15-year-olds			
1995/96	594,035	384,686	64.8
1996/97[3]	586,766	377,609	64.4
1997/98	575,210	362,639	63.0
1998/99	580,972	356,489	61.4
1999/2000	580,393	348,307	60.0
2000/01	603,318	357,897	59.3
2001/02	606,554	351,422	57.9
2002/03	622,122	361,686	58.1
2003/04[4]	643,560	369,078	57.3
2004/05	636,771	354,597	55.7
2005/06[5]	648,942	354,837	54.7
Pupils at End Key Stage 4			
2004/05	633,414	349,205	55.1
2005/06[5]	645,931	349,894	54.2

[1] Including attempts and achievement in previous academic years.
[2] Number of pupils on roll aged 15 at the start of the academic year or from 2004/05 figures are also shown for the number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in that academic year.
[3] Percentages from 1996/97 include GCSEs and GNVQs.
[4] Percentages from 2003/04 include GCSEs and other equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16.
[5] Figures for 2005/06 are revised, all other figures are final.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what percentage of pupils gained five A*-C grades at GCSE including mathematics, English, science, history and geography in each year between 1997 and 2006; [123054]

(2) what percentage of pupils gained five A*-C grades at GCSE including mathematics, English, geography, modern languages and double science in each year between 1997 and 2006; [123055]

(3) what percentage of pupils gained five A*-C grades at GCSE including mathematics, English, history, geography, modern languages and double science in each year between 1997 and 2006; [123056]

(4) what percentage of pupils gained five A*-C grades at GCSE excluding mathematics, English, history, geography, modern languages and double science in each year between 1997 and 2006. [123057]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table:

	Percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] who gained at least five A-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including mathematics, English, science, history and geography*	*Percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] who gained at least five A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including mathematics, English, geography, modern languages and double science*	*Percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] who gained at least five A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including mathematics, English, history, geography, modern languages and double science*	*Percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] who gained at least five A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent, excluding[2] grades A*-C at GCSE in mathematics, English, history, geography, modern languages or double science*
2006	8.8	12.6	4.4	3.2
2005	9.0	14.7	4.9	2.4
2004	9.0	16.5	5.3	1.7
2003	8.9	17.4	5.4	1.3
2002	9.6	19.8	6.0	0.5
2001	10.2	21.9	6.6	0.1
2000	10.3	21.9	6.5	0.1
1999	10.9	23.3	6.9	0.1
1998	11.4	23.3	7.0	0.1
1997	12.8	23.4	7.6	0.0

[1] Number of pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2] These figures exclude pupils who achieved grade C or above in any of mathematics, English, history, geography, modern languages or double science.

Headteachers: Vacancies

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many head teacher vacancies were advertised in the 10 per cent. of schools with the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest levels of free school meal entitlement in the latest year for which figures are available. [131296]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Information on vacancies is not available at the school level and therefore cannot be linked to school meal entitlement.

Health Education: Sex

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to improve sex education in schools. [130480]

Mr. Dhanda: We are committed to helping schools improve their planning and delivery of this important area of the curriculum. In addition to the Department's Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Guidance (2000), all teachers of SRE are encouraged to undertake the Government funded continuing professional development programme for Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE). The programme, which is also open to community nurses, supports standards in the delivery of PSHE teaching including SRE. To date, over 5,000 teachers and nurses have benefited from the programme.

Other measures to support high quality SRE provision include:

(i) DfES funding for the recently launched subject association for PSHE. The association will provide support and advice to teachers on all areas of PSHE, including SRE;

(ii) Increased funding (£13.2 million) in 2007-08 (for the National Healthy Schools programme. This key programme for driving up standards in PSHE, requires schools, for the purposes of accreditation, to demonstrate that they have a SRE programme in line with DfES guidance; and

(iii) Detailed guidance to teachers from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, covering how schools can evaluate what young people are learning through PSHE, including SRE.

Higher Education

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average cost to the public purse of a university degree in England was in each of the last 10 years. [125249]

Bill Rammell: The funding per full-time equivalent higher education student studying at English institutions funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) is shown in the following table; in addition to these totals, institutions have received income from tuition fees, and from September 2006 have been able to charge up to £3,000 for full-time home and EU undergraduates, with the Government, not students, meeting the upfront costs.

Real terms (2004-05 prices)	*Funding per planned student (£)*	
1997-98	4,230	—
1998-99	4,110	—
1999-2000	4,530	—
2000-01	4,530	—
2001-02	4,560	—
2002-03	4,590	—
2003-04	4,740	—
2004-05	4,770	—
2005-06[1]	—	4,820
2006-07	—	4,880

[1] The planned student numbers used in the figures to 2004-05 are taken from a snapshot count. The planned student numbers used in figures from 2005-06 are taken from a whole-year count which replaced the snapshot count method because it is more accurate.

These funds include recurrent resources for teaching and research provided to the HEFCE and the IDA. Figures exclude tuition fee income and expenditure on student support costs.

The total cost per course would depend on the duration of study, and can be calculated from these per annum costs in each case.

The coverage of these figures is Home (i.e. UK) and EU domiciled students, including postgraduates, studying at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Further Education Colleges (FECs) in England.

Higher Education: Sports

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of specialist sports colleges on standards in teaching and learning of PE and school sport. [131509]

Jim Knight: Sports colleges have consistently performed at or above the national average for attainment of a good grade in PE. Their wider GCSE performances have also improved since designation. This rate of improvement has been the highest of all the specialisms for the second year running.

Sports colleges play a key role in driving school sport partnerships which are central to the DfES/DCMS Physical Education, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) strategy. Ofsted has evaluated the strategy since 2003. Their latest report (2006) found that:

> The school sport partnership programme was helping to improve the quality of provision in physical education and school sport, particularly in primary schools.
>
> The sport partnership programme had enabled subject leaders to influence their colleagues' teaching and improve provision.

The DfES has also commissioned the Institute of Youth Sport at Loughborough university to carry out a series of independent impact studies on the strategy. The second annual study (2006) found that

> "Not only have school sport partnerships increased considerably the range and quality of sports and PE opportunities available to pupils, the data also shows that the programme still possesses considerable momentum as indicated by the substantial improvement in participation levels and in the quality of the experience of pupils in sport over the twelve months since the last report."

Higher Education: Tees Valley

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of *(a)* 18 and *(b)* 19 year olds from (i) Hartlepool constituency and (ii) Tees Valley sub-region joined university courses in each of the last 10 years. [130902]

Bill Rammell: The latest available figures on participation in higher education by local areas were published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in January 2005 in "Young Participation in England", which is available from their website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/.

This report shows participation rates for young people who enter higher education aged 18 or 19 for the years 1997 to 2000. The figures for Hartlepool parliamentary constituency, Tees Valley Learning and Skills Council area and the comparable figure for England, are shown in the following table. HEFCE have not produced participation rates beyond 2000.

Young participation rate (YPR (A)) in Higher Education[1] for year cohort aged 18

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Cohort for Hartlepool[2]	1,230	1,270	1,180	1,190
Young participation rate (A) for Hartlepool[3] (Percentage)	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Cohort for Tees Valley[2]	8,980	9,330	8,990	8,780
Young participation rate (A) for Tees Valley[3] (Percentage)	23.0	23.0	24.0	24.0
Young participation rate (A) for England (Percentage)	29.2	28.8	29.2	29.9

[1] Covers all students studying higher education courses at UK higher education institutions and other UK institutions, for example further education colleges.
[2] Cohorts are reported to the nearest 10.
[3] Young participation rates for constituencies are reported to the nearest per cent.
Source:
Higher Education Funding Council for England

The total numbers of undergraduate entrants to UK higher education institutions from Hartlepool parliamentary constituency and Tees Valley for each year since 2001/02 are given in the following table.

Entrants to undergraduate courses[1] from Hartlepool parliamentary constituency and Tees Valley[2], 2001/02 to 2005/06

	2001/02		2002/03		2003/04	
Age	Hartlepool	Tees Valley	Hartlepool	Tees Valley	Hartlepool	Tees Valley
Aged 18	250	1,940	235	1,910	215	1,975
Aged 19	90	810	115	820	105	825
Aged19 and over[3]	710	6,745	760	6,705	810	6,415
Total entrants	1,050	9,495	1,110	19,435	1,125	9,215

	2004/05		2005/06	
Age	Hartlepool	Tees Valley	Hartlepool	Tees Valley
Aged 18	205	1,920	275	2,065
Aged 19	95	765	115	845

	2004/05		2005/06	
Age	Hartlepool	Tees Valley	Hartlepool	Tees Valley
Aged19 and over[3]	845	7,095	875	7,150
Total entrants	1,150	9,780	1,265	10,055

[1] Covers all students studying higher education courses at UK higher education institutions only. Students studying higher education courses elsewhere such as further education colleges are excluded.
[2] Tees Valley covers students from five local authorities: Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington.
[3] Includes a very small number of students with unknown ages or ages under 18.
Note:
Figures are based on the HESA standard registration population for entrants and have been rounded to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

The Department uses the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) to assess progress on increasing first-time participation of English students aged 18-30 in higher education towards 50 per cent: the latest provisional figure for 2005/06 is 43 per cent. The HEIPR is not calculated at parliamentary constituency level or local authority level.

Languages: GCSE

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of students achieved A*-C at GCSE in a modern language in the 10 per cent. of schools with the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest levels of free school meal entitlement in (i) 2006 and (ii) 1997. [131295]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Literacy: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to his answer of 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1610-1W, on the secondary education curriculum, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Assessing Pupil Progress materials for reading and writing that were distributed to all secondary schools in 2006. [126836]

Jim Knight: Yes. Copies will also be sent directly to the hon. Member.

Literacy: Standards

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of pupils left school functionally illiterate in *(a)* the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the previous 10 years. [130156]

Jim Knight: The answer to this PQ has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Local Education Authorities: Tribunals

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether his Department keeps records *(a)* nationally and *(b)* broken down by authority of the costs to local education authorities of preparing for cases before tribunals. [130506]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* The Department for Education and Skills does not collect this information. The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) is no longer managed by the Department. On 1 April 2006 SENDIST became part of the Tribunals Service, an executive agency of the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

Mathematics: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills why it is proposed that there should no longer be a foundation and higher programme of study in mathematics at key stage 4 under the proposed changes to the curriculum of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. [126013]

Jim Knight: Mathematics is currently the only subject to have a tiered programme of study at key stage 4. Pupils should be entitled to access all learning relevant to the key stage at the level most appropriate to them. The current tiered curriculum creates an artificial ceiling of expectation for pupils following the foundation tier. The new single programme of study will enable teachers to personalise the curriculum to suit the needs of individual pupils, allowing them to engage with mathematics at all levels.

Numeracy: Teachers

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers who qualified between 1 May 2000 and 30 April 2001 have not passed the numeracy skills test. [130312]

Jim Knight: According to figures provided by the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) there are currently 538 teachers who qualified between 1 May 2000 and 30 April 2001 and who have not passed the numeracy skills test. GTCE records indicate that of these 538 there are 87 teaching in maintained schools or non-maintained special schools.

Nurseries: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many nursery places for three and four-year-olds there were in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last five years. [130934]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the following tables.

Number of part time funded places[1,2,3] filled by three and four-year-olds, parliamentary constituency: Eastbourne, position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			Four-year-olds		
Year	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[5]*	*Total three-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[6]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers[7]*	*Total four-year-olds*
2004	120	720	840	670	330	1,000
2005	130	750	880	620	350	960
2006	110	700	810	660	300	960

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for Eastbourne parliamentary constituency are not available.
[4] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Schools Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Schools Census.
[6] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Schools Census.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Schools Census.

Number of part time funded places12 filled by three and four-year-olds, local authority: East Sussex, position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			Four-year-olds		
Year	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total three-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]*	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total four-year-olds*
1997	930	n/a	930	n/a	n/a	[5,6]4,800
1998	610	n/a	610	n/a	n/a	[5,6]5,000
1999	600	n/a	600	n/a	n/a	[5,6]5,300
2000	570	[7]0	600	n/a	n/a	[5,6]5,200
2001	590	[7]1,100	1,700	n/a	n/a	[5,6]5,000
2002	570	[7]1,400	1,900	3,700	[8]1,600	5,300
2003	550	[7]2,700	3,300	3,600	[8]1,600	5,200
2004	470	[7]3,500	4,000	3,500	[10]1,600	5,100
2005	470	[7]3,400	3,900	3,300	[10]1,500	4,800
2006	430	[7]3,470	3,800	3,300	[10]1,400	4,700

n/a = not available
[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Schools Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Schools Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] For the years 1997-2001, four-year-old sub-national figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary date collection exercise and the Schools Census.
[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Schools Census.
[10] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the Schools Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release 32/2006 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2006 (final)". in August, which is available on my Department's website at:

ww.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Politics and Government: Children

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost was of setting up and maintaining the DirectgovKids website; what its purpose is; and how many visitors it has had. [131360]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is as follows.

What is the purpose of DirectgovKids?

DirectgovKids (www.direct.gov.uk/kids) is the single site within Government for five to 11-year-olds.

The purpose of the site is to support the UN convention on the Rights of the Child, to inform children on how Government affect their lives, and to help them learn about and understand the society they are growing up in.

It contributes towards meeting Public Sector Agreement and Every Child Matters targets related to children, e.g. with content on healthy eating and exercise, democracy and participation.

DirectgovKids can be used in the classroom, across the curriculum, as it has many useful lesson materials. It also has more specific applications for the teaching of Citizenship/ Personal, Social and Health Education for Key Stages 1 and 2. Children can also access it from their home personal computer.

What was the cost of setting up and maintaining the website?

The cost of setting up the website was:

2005/06—£983,751 + vat

2006/07—£947,216 +vat

This is 25p on average per year for each child aged 5+ in a primary school in England.

How many visits to date?

Since the launch on 21 March 2007 the site has had 8,218 visits (at 10 April).

Immediately after the launch visits went up from an average of 40 to over 400 visits per day.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which five local education authorities have the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest unauthorised absence rates for secondary school pupils. [131012]

Jim Knight: The answer to this request is shown in the following tables:

Five Local Authorities with the Lowest Rates of Unauthorised Absence

Local Authority[1]	Unauthorised Absence
London, City of	0.03
Isles of Scilly	0.21
Rutland	0.22
Harrow	0.27
East Riding of Yorkshire	0.32

[1] The figures by LA relate to maintained primary and secondary schools, excluding maintained special schools, academies and CTCs.

Five Local Authorities with the Highest Rates of Unauthorised Absence

Local Authority[1]	Unauthorised Absence
Tower Hamlets	1.61
Kingston upon Hull, City of	1.63
Bradford	1.66
Manchester	1.84
Greenwich	1.97

[1] The figures by LA relate to maintained primary and secondary schools, excluding maintained special schools, academies and CTCs.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Further information on pupil absence in schools can be found in the Statistical First Release, "Pupil Absence in Schools in England: 2005/06" which can be found at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000679/index.shtml

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many and what percentage of half days were missed due to unauthorised absences among pupils in the 10 per cent. of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools with the (i) highest and (ii) lowest levels of free school meal entitlement in (A) 2006 and (B) 1997; [131288]

(2) how many pupils recorded at least one half day of unauthorised absence in the 10 per cent. of schools with the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest levels of free school meal entitlement in (i) 2006 and (ii) 1997. [131297]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupils: Eyesight

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with the Department of Health on *(a)* the Schools Medical Service and *(b)* eye checks for children. [130821]

Jim Knight: DfES Ministers have had no meetings with the DH on these topics. We have no plans to press for more eye screening in school-age children, because there is no evidence to support such a move.

Local health services must do one medical check at some point in childhood (usually around age four, not necessarily at school). These normally pick up any eye problems. In addition, DH provides free eye checks for children and recommends that parents take advantage of these if their child experiences a difficulty. We believe these measures are sufficient.

We suggest that teachers who have any cause for concern over a child's eyesight should raise these concerns with the parents/carers.

Pupils: Bullying

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department has spent on anti-bullying measures since 1997. [131708]

Jim Knight: The figures for the anti-bullying strand of the Improving Behaviour and Attendance strategy, which is used centrally to support schools and local authorities in their anti-bullying work, are given as follows:

	Spend on anti-bullying (£)
2002/03	184,000
2003/04	1,054,000
2004/05	1,613,000
2005/06	1,145,000
2006/07	1,400,000

Figures for earlier years are not available because the anti-bullying strand of behaviour work was not disaggregated. Other funding on behaviour and attendance may also have an effect on reducing bullying but is not used exclusively to combat bullying.

Schools: Clothing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the possible introduction of formal guidelines governing religious dress in schools. [129874]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 28 March 2007]:* The Department has not made an assessment of the possible introduction of formal guidelines on religious dress, as governing bodies determine school uniform and dress codes under powers conferred by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. We issue non-statutory guidance to schools, reminding them of their responsibilities under the Human Rights Act 1998 and anti-discrimination legislation. The guidance also states that schools should be sensitive to pupil's cultural and religious needs and differences and must ensure that their uniform policies are fair and reasonable.

Schools: Complaints

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what appeals process is in place for parents who wish to appeal against the *(a)* content and *(b)* operation of a school's complaints procedure. [127414]

Jim Knight: Parents with concerns about the content and operation of a school's complaints procedure can appeal to the Secretary of State. He has powers under

Sections 496 and 497 of the Education Act 1996 to intervene in cases where a governing body has acted unlawfully or "unreasonably", which is defined as conduct which no sensible authority or governing body, acting with due appreciation of its legal responsibilities, would have decided to adopt. Section 496 empowers the Secretary of State, where he is satisfied that a governing body has acted unreasonably with respect to the exercise of a power or the performance of a duty, to give such directions as to the exercise of the power or performance of duty as appear to him expedient.

Schools: Energy

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average cost was of energy usage for an *(a)* primary school, *(b)* secondary school and *(c)* academy in 2005-06. [120895]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 February 2007]:* In 2005-06 an average primary school spent £39 per pupil on energy and an average secondary school spent £56 per pupil. Of the 27 academies open in 2005/06 energy cost figures for 11 academies that were fully occupied are available. The average energy cost of these 11 academies was £84 per pupil.

Reasons for academies consuming more energy than the average secondary school include:

longer opening hours to promote extended use by the community (often hours of darkness); and

increased use of ICT.

Significant changes to building regulations were introduced in 2006 requiring a 40 per cent. reduction in carbon emissions compared with those built under the 2002 building regulations. Academies now being designed and built will consume less energy than those open in 2005/06.

Schools: Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research has been *(a)* funded and *(b)* carried out by his Department into the effects of improving the ethos of schools on the rate of (i) teenage pregnancies and (ii) drug abuse; when his Department last undertook an evidence review on the issue that drew on (A) UK and (B) international research; and if he will make a statement. [130837]

Beverley Hughes: No specific research has been commissioned by DfES that looks explicitly at how a school's ethos impacts on the rate of teenage pregnancies or substance misuse.

There is, however, evidence that schools have an important role in tackling the underlying causes of both teenage pregnancy and substance misuse, in particular through their role in raising young people's aspirations and improving their educational attainment. Research by Hosie A & Dawson N (2005): "The Education of Pregnant Young Women and Young Mothers", reports that dislike of school was shown to have a strong independent effect on the risk of teenage pregnancy. This important finding is reflected in the DfES publication, "Teenage Pregnancy: Accelerating the Strategy to 2010", sent to all local authorities in September 2006.

Schools: Transport

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost of providing transport for pupils attending denominational schools in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex was in each of the last five years. [130936]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this information.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what maximum daily journey time is recommended by his Department for a pupil between home and school by *(a)* bus, *(b)* car and *(c)* train; [131193]

(2) what guidance on best practice officials provide to local education authorities on maximum school journey times; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [131194]

Jim Knight: On 11 March the Department completed a consultation on draft Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance. The draft did not recommend specific home to school journey times, as we consider that reasonable journey times will depend on a number of factors, including the age and any individual needs of a child. Our guidance suggests that the maximum journey duration for a child of primary school age could be 45 minutes, while a journey of up to 75 minutes could be appropriate for a child of secondary school age. A child's special educational needs and/or disability might indicate a shorter maximum journey time.

As soon as a printed version of the new guidance is available we will place a copy in the Library.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1480W, on secondary education: curriculum, whether he expects schools to evaluate the effectiveness of any innovative curriculum plan they undertake. [126009]

Jim Knight: We fully expect that schools will want to evaluate the effectiveness of any innovative curriculum planning they undertake.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many responses had the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority received to the secondary curriculum review consultation on *(a)* the programme of study and *(b)* the supporting materials from (i) teachers,(ii) parents and (iii) pupils as of 21 March. [130309]

Jim Knight: The secondary curriculum review consultation will run until 30 April 2007.

In the first four weeks there have been approximately 230,000 hits on the website and about 2,000 people have participated in the on-line consultation. At this time no analysis has been made as to the category of respondent or the breakdown between responses to the programmes of study and the supporting materials.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which schools were used as case studies for personal development on the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority secondary curriculum review website. [130313]

Jim Knight: All schools that submitted case studies to the secondary curriculum website were given the option of being identified by name.

In the section of the website that covers personal development, Gaynes School Language College was the only institution which chose to be named.

Secondary Education: Teaching Methods

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment is made by Ofsted during its regular inspections of state secondary schools on the provision of field visits. [130222]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 2 April 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked what assessment is made by Ofsted during its regular inspections of state secondary schools on the provision of field visits.

The current school inspection process focuses on the overall effectiveness of the school. It does not specifically require inspectors to make a comment or judgment on the provision of field visits. However, inspectors often make reference to the value of learning outside the classroom in the context of the 'enjoy and achieve' outcome of 'Every Child Matters'. They may also refer to the contribution made by field visits to the curriculum and specifically to the quality and range of enrichment opportunities offered by a school.

More detail is obtained from our programme of subject surveys, obtained from visits to a sample of 30 secondary schools each year. During the last year, as part of our geography survey, we have focused on 'the quality of fieldwork'. A report drawing on this evidence will be published later this year, with examples of good practice. Ofsted has also been commissioned by the DFES to carry out a survey inspection in 2007-08 of education outside the classroom.

Special Educational Needs: Expenditure

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the costs to local education authorities, excluding the costs of preparation for cases before tribunals, of providing for special educational needs were in the last year for which figures are available; [130507]

(2) what the costs to local education authorities, excluding the costs of preparation for cases before tribunals, of providing for special educational needs out of area were in the last year for which figures are available. [130508]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* Tables have been placed in the House Library showing:

Local authorities' total planned expenditure on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs for the 2006-07 financial year; the figures shown include the cost of preparation for tribunals; the Department for Education and Skills is unable to extract these costs; and

Local authorities' budgeted gross expenditure for inter-authority recoupment and local authorities budgeted net expenditure on fees for pupils at independent schools or non-maintained special schools; the figures shown exclude the cost of preparation for tribunals.

Teaching Methods: Finance

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much funding has been made available by his Department for the promotion of the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto; [130208]

(2) what proportion of pupils studying science GCSEs have undertaken investigative fieldwork outside the classroom. [130221]

Jim Knight: Between 2006-08, the Department will make available £2.7 million to support the delivery of the aims of the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto. Other funding streams support a range of opportunities, for example, the joint DCMS/DFES Museums and Galleries and the London Challenge New Views programmes. Schools also use their own budgets to provide these experiences for their pupils. The Department does not collect information about the proportion of students undertaking investigative fieldwork outside the classroom.

Teaching Methods: Portsmouth

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when Admiral Lord Nelson Business and Enterprise College in Portsmouth adopted the two year Key Stage 3 approach referred to in the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority secondary curriculum review supporting materials; and what results were achieved at Key Stage 3 in *(a)* the year before adopting this approach and *(b)* each year since adopting this approach. [130317]

Jim Knight: Admiral Lord Nelson Business and Enterprise College in Portsmouth adopted a two year Key stage 3 approach five years ago.

Results achieved by schools at Key Stage 3 have only been published since 2002. The Admiral Lord Nelson Business and Enterprise College Key Stage 3 results from 2002 onwards are reproduced in the following table.

	Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above: English	*Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above: Maths*	*Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above: Science*
2002	78	74	70
2003	85	80	76
2004	77	83	59
2005	68	72	61
2006	74	82	72

Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of the participants in the Train to Gain programme working towards qualifications have received *(a)* between 0 and 20 hours, *(b)* between 20 and 30 hours, *(c)* between 30 and 40 hours, *(d)* between 40 and 50 hours and *(e)* between 50 and 60 hours training. [130647]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected or held centrally. The cost of collecting such information would be disproportionate, and it would be overly bureaucratic to collect from colleges and training providers.

Truancy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department has spent on anti-truancy measures since 1997. [131644]

Jim Knight: "Truancy" is one of several reasons why a child may be absent from school without authorisation. My Department has spent the following on measures aimed solely at reducing absence from schools:

£11.25 million to help 530 secondary schools which had higher than average rates of unauthorised absence to purchase electronic registration systems;

£2.0 million on the National Strategies' work to provide support to local authorities on their attendance strategies;

£0.3 million on eight advisers seconded from local authorities to the Department to work with 60 local authorities with high levels of unauthorised absence;

£48,000 on absence data collections (in addition to school census collections);

£0.1 million for publicity and promotion materials; and

£0.2 million on events for local authorities to share effective practice on attendance management.

In addition to these specific measures my Department has funded other initiatives such as the Behaviour Improvement Programme which have had, as part of their overall objectives, the reduction of absence and truancy.

Vocational Education

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the timetable is for the introduction of specialised diplomas; and if he will make a statement. [130874]

Phil Hope: We have met the milestones for development of the new diploma qualifications that we published in the 14-19 Education and Skills Implementation Plan (DfES 2037-2005DCL-EN). This means that we are on track for Diploma courses to be provided for the first time from September 2008.

Youth Services: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what schemes funded by his Department were instituted in Hartlepool constituency to provide young people with *(a)* activities and *(b)* somewhere to socialise in the last five years. [130898]

Mr. Dhanda: Youth programmes of a diversionary and/or development nature which have been funded by DfES, and instituted in Hartlepool, in the last five years include Children's Fund, Local Network Fund, the Neighbourhood Support Fund (NSF), Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP), Millennium Volunteers (MV), Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds. Local authority youth services and the voluntary and community sector also run youth provision with the aim of providing personal, social and educational development for young people. All activities listed provide opportunities for young people to socialise.

Youth Work: Tees Valley

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many youth workers there were in each local authority in the Tees Valley area in each of the last 10 years. [130899]

Mr. Dhanda: Youth workers are recruited and employed locally by local authority youth services. Information is not held centrally on the number of youth workers directly employed at a local level.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 16 April 2007

HEALTH

Abortions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions have been performed by Marie Stopes International in the last three years, broken down by *(a)* grounds, *(b)* length of gestation, *(c)* location and *(d)* nationality of the pregnant woman; how many inspections were carried out on premises occupied by Marie Stopes International in each of the last three years; how many complaints have been received by her Department about Marie Stopes International in the same period; and if she will make a statement. [129525]

Caroline Flint: Information on the number of abortions performed by Marie Stopes International (MSI) in England by grounds, gestation and the woman's place of residence is set out in the following table. The place of termination has been withheld in order to protect individuals' confidentiality. This is in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics, 2005.

Approved independent sector abortion clinics are inspected by the Healthcare Commission on an annual basis. Copies of the inspection reports can be viewed at:

www.healthcarecommission.org.uk.

The Department has received a small number of complaints during the last three years which were investigated. Under the Care Standards Act 2000, MSI is required to supply each patient with a written copy of its complaints procedure, fully investigate each complaint and maintain a detailed, written record of each complaint. MSI is also required to send the Healthcare Commission a statement every year with a summary of the complaints received.

In addition, the Healthcare Commission look at these records as part of a clinic inspection.

Abortions performed by Marie Stopes International, England, 2003-05

	2003	*2004*	*2005*
Total	53,643	58,128	58,402
Grounds			
C	53,486	57,929	58,197
Other	157	199	205
Gestation weeks			
up to 9	39,315	43,924	45,490
10 to 12	8,739	8,723	7,892
13 and over	5,589	5,481	5,020

Abortions performed by Marie Stopes International, England, 2003-05

	2003	*2004*	*2005*
Place of Residence			
England	48,117	52,426	53,014
Wales	520	614	551
Scotland	85	118	94
Northern Ireland	577	640	685
Isle of Man	21	27	24
Irish Republic	3,943	3,956	3,676
France	38	17	23
Italy	42	49	56
Malta	31	53	41
Spain	25	20	18
United Arab Emirates	53	41	45
Other	191	167	175

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 727-28W on accident and emergency (A and E) admissions, how many attendances there were at Eastbourne District General Hospital A and E department in each of the last five years. [130969]

Andy Burnham: Information is not collected centrally at the level of individual hospitals. However, information on the total number of attendances at accident and emergency (A&E) departments at East Sussex Hospitals National Health Service Trust is shown in the table.

	Attendances at accident and emergency
2002-03	86,354
2003-04	90,526
2004-05	101,916
2005-06	110,558
2006-07	84,804

Note:
2006-07 data are for Q1, Q2 and Q3 only.
Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE

Accidents: Fees and Charges

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the start date was of the NHS Injury Cost Recovery Scheme; and if she will make a statement; [131126]

(2) how much the NHS Injury Cost Recovery Scheme is expected to cover each year; and if she will make a statement. [131127]

Andy Burnham: The regulations governing the operation of the national health service injury cost recovery (ICR) scheme came into force on 29 January 2007. The ICR scheme subsumes the existing road traffic accident (RTA) recovery scheme, and expands it to cover all cases where personal injury compensation is paid.

The existing RTA recovery scheme brings in more than £120 million for the NHS each year. We expect

that the expanded scheme will recover a further £150 million a year once it is properly bedded down.

Acute Beds: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute hospital beds per head of population there were in each year since 1997 in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [130947]

Andy Burnham: The information is not available in the requested format. It is not possible to provide data for the number of beds at acute trusts by resident population or specific catchment areas. The following table contains the average daily number of acute hospital beds at East Sussex Hospitals National Health Service Trust.

	Acute beds
1996-97	753
1997-98	746
1998-99	715
1999-2000	697
2000-01	698
2001-02	736
2002-03	675
2003-04	695
2004-05	697
2005-06	650

Notes:
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust was formed via the merger of Eastbourne Hospitals NHS Trust and Hastings and Rother NHS Trust.
Source:
KH03

Living Wills

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will establish a central database or register for living wills. [130550]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have demonstrated the importance they attach to allowing people to make their own decisions about health care by including provisions for advance decisions to refuse treatment in the Mental Capacity Act (MCA). Such advance decisions are currently sometimes called living wills. The Government's intention have always been to allow as much flexibility as possible for those making advance decisions and, therefore, there is no standard form for an advance decision. This makes issues around the formal registration of advance decisions complicated.

The MCA code of practice recommends that people think about whether they want their health care record to reflect that they have made an advance decision. We will consider the practicalities of how this option might be realised within the context of the new national health service care records service.

Air Ambulance Services: Drugs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether air ambulances are required to cover the cost of their own drugs. [131761]

Andy Burnham: Since 1 April 2002, the costs of clinical staff on air ambulances should be met by the national health service. Any decision to provide funding for drugs administered by air ambulance clinical staff would, however, be a matter for the local NHS ambulance trust.

Alcohol Abuse: Young People

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* specialist treatment and *(b)* follow up care is available for under-18 year olds admitted to hospital with an alcohol-related diagnosis. [129900]

Caroline Flint: Dependent on their individual circumstances, the vast majority of young people admitted to hospital are admitted following an acute episode of drunkenness. They may not have a substantial alcohol problem requiring treatment, but the hospital team treating them would assess this. Depending on their age and maturity, they may be referred to adult alcohol treatment services or to the local child and adolescent mental health services to address any counselling or mental health needs. If they are developing severe health problems as a result of their alcohol misuse, they would be assessed by the specialist hospital team best placed to treat their particular health conditions.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to reduce alcohol abuse by under 18 year olds; and if she will make a statement. [129901]

Caroline Flint: The Government are determined to reduce the harm caused to young people by alcohol misuse and are committed to educating young people on the very real harm it can cause. We are preventing the sale of alcohol to children by strengthening enforcement of the law on retailers and working with the industry to reduce under-age sales of alcohol—while continuing to educate young people about the harms, both physical and social, of alcohol abuse. Alcohol education is now part of the national curriculum. Updated guidance makes it clear that alcohol education should be about sensible drinking and reducing harm. This includes encouraging schools to look at the influence of the media on attitudes towards alcohol.

The Government have a high profile alcohol campaign, Know Your Limits, aimed at 18 to 24-year-old binge drinkers, warning them of the harms associated with binge drinking.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the effect of ambulance service reconfigurations on response times. [131672]

Andy Burnham: No assessment has been made. Annual national health service ambulance trust performance data for 2006-07 are due to be published this summer.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will provide a breakdown of how the £25 million allocated to help improve category A ambulance response times has been spent; and what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of that expenditure. [131673]

Andy Burnham: Information on how the £25 million capital incentive scheme monies have been spent is not held centrally.

Currently the clock starts for measuring response times when key information has been obtained from the caller. From April 2008, the clock will start earlier, when the call is connected to the ambulance control room. Response time standards will remain the same. The incentive scheme was designed to help ambulance trusts make the capital investments required to maintain response times from April 2008. It is therefore too early to make an assessment of the effectiveness of that expenditure.

Blood: Contamination

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what potential conflicts of interest were notified to the Permanent Secretary by departmental Ministers between 1997 and 1999 in connection with the handling of compensation claims related to the supply of contaminated blood products by the NHS. [127259]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The Department has no record available relating to notification of conflicts of interest for the period in question. To look into this any further would incur disproportionate cost.

Body Mass Index

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's estimate is of the average body mass index in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England, *(c)* Suffolk, *(d)* Bedfordshire, *(e)* Cambridgeshire, *(f)* Essex, *(g)* Hertfordshire and *(h)* Norfolk. [127869]

Caroline Flint: Information is not available in the format requested. The most recent data available on the mean body mass index (BMI) for adults and children in England is from the 2005 Health Survey for England (HSE).

Table 1 sets out the mean BMI for adults in England in 2005.

Table 1: Mean body mass index for adults[1], England 2005

	Percentage/number
Men	26.9
Women	26.9
Bases (unweighted)	
Men	2,930
Women	3,409
Bases (weighted)	
Men	3,144
Women	3,184

[1] Aged 16 and over.

Source:
Health Survey for England 2005: Headline figures. The Information Centre.

Table 2 sets out the mean BMI for children by age in England in 2005.

Table 2: Mean BMI for children by age, England 2005

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
									Percentage/number
Boys[1]	—	—	17.2	17.3	17.1	17.6	16.8	16.9	16.9
Girls[1]	—	—	[17.3]	17.0	16.8	16.6	16.3	17.0	17.2
Bases (unweighted)									
Boys	4	25	62	56	73	76	64	85	86
Girls	14	30	38	71	88	89	76	104	71
Bases (weighted)									
Boys	4	25	56	49	68	72	65	92	82
Girls	14	30	31	60	77	80	67	94	71

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Total
								Percentage/number
Boys[1]	17.5	17.9	18.5	19.2	20.2	20.6	21.9	18.4
Girls[1]	18.3	18.3	20.0	19.8	21.5	21.8	23.0	18.7
Bases (unweighted)								
Boys	85	87	70	88	83	71	77	1,091
Girls	71	81	79	100	80	67	93	1,154
Bases (weighted)								
Boys	74	84	75	95	91	82	97	1,111
Girls	80	82	71	97	86	70	97	1,107

Notes:
1. Figures for children aged 0 and 1 are not given due small sample sizes.
2. The unweighted sample base for this category is below 50.

Source:
The Health Survey for England 2005: Headline Figures. The Information Centre.

Table 3 sets out the recent data available on the mean BMI for adults in the East of England Government office region (GOR) from HSE 2003. Data on the mean BMI for children in the East of England is unavailable. Information on the mean BMI for adults and children in Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Norfolk is also not available.

Table 3: Mean body mass index for adults[1], by East England Government office region, 2003

	Percentage/number
Men	27.2
Women	26.9
Bases (unweighted)	
Men	728
Women	825
Bases (weighted)	
Men	755
Women	735

[1] Aged 16 and over.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2003. Department of Health.

Breast Cancer: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when she expects breast cancer screening services to be resumed at the North London Breast Screening Service; [130231]

(2) what estimate she has made of what the likely backlog will be when screening resumes at the North London Breast Screening Service; [130235]

(3) for what reasons the decision was taken to suspend breast cancer screening services at the North London Breast Screening Service. [130236]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I am advised that the temporary suspension was due to system process errors that were brought to light during a routine audit being carried out by the Quality Assurance Service. The audit flagged up that women were not invited for further assessments, in line with service protocols, following their mammogram. All the women affected received a normal mammogram (i.e. no abnormalities appeared on the mammogram). However, the women had mentioned other possible symptoms during their appointment and guidelines specify that further assessment should take place.

I understand that Enfield Primary Care Trust is currently working towards the completion of detailed plans to reopen the service during April. The service has been subject to an external review by the National Breast Screening Service Quality Assurance Team. The implementation of all the recommendations arising from the review continues to form a key part of the planning process. The trust will be able to confirm the precise arrangements for resuming the service after the review team has completed its work, which is expected by the end of March.

The trust with their partner primary care trusts have an evolving action plan in place for the recommencement of screening and to clear the backlog, including investigating arrangements with other potential service providers and their ability to assist with the backlog.

The unit is currently developing a full plan to facilitate the recommencement of screening services. Once this is complete the trust will be able to advise on estimates. It will also depend on whether arrangements can be put into place to screen women at other sites across London and the surrounding area. Women who have been waiting longest will be seen on a priority basis.

Approximately 3,500 women per month are normally seen by the service and it is estimated that approximately 10,000 women would have been affected by the suspension of the service.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breast screening appointments were *(a)* made and *(b)* cancelled other than by the patient in each London primary care trust in each calendar year since 2000. [130234]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women aged between 50 and 70 years are required to wait more than three years between breast cancer screenings in *(a)* Surrey Primary Care Trust and *(b)* England; what estimate her Department has made of the attendance take-up rate of women aged between 50 and 70 years attending breast cancer screenings in each area; and if she will make a statement. [127578]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Surrey Primary Care Trust is covered by the breast screening unit based at the Jarvis Centre, Guildford. According to figures from January to March 2006, the average interval between screens for women at the Jarvis Centre was 33 months, and 92 per cent. of women were screened within 36 months of their previous screen. In England the average interval between screens for the same period was 36 months, with 68 per cent. of women being screened within 36 months of their previous screen.

We take the issue of the 36-month standard between screens very seriously. That is why Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director, wrote to the chief executives of all 10 strategic health authorities in England on 9 February 2007 highlighting the importance of maintaining the 36-month interval.

Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the Health Care Commission has made of *(a)* the quality of care delivered at Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre and *(b)* the level of patient satisfaction with the delivery of care. [130200]

Andy Burnham: As the independent inspection body for both the national health service and independent healthcare, the Healthcare Commission (HCC) is not part of the Department. Therefore, the information requested is not held centrally. However, information

on the reviews of services undertaken by the HCC are available on their website at: www.healthcare commission.org.uk

All Independent Sector providers, including the Midlands Treatment Centre located in Burton, are required to achieve HCC approval before services are commenced and to meet subsequent reviews. We can confirm that the Midlands Treatment Centre did receive HCC approval for the start of services in July 2006.

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the targeted case volume is for Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre; and what proportion of that volume was achieved in each year since it was set up; [130201]

(2) what operating and medical procedures Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre undertakes; and whether these differ from those carried out in its first two years. [130205]

Andy Burnham: The Midlands National Health Service Treatment Centre, situated in Burton, opened in July 2006. The case mix at the treatment centre continues to include ENT (ears nose and throat), general surgery, gynaecology, OMFS (face/jaw), ophthalmology, pain relief, plastics, rheumatology, trauma and orthopaedics and urology.

The Department measures independent sector treatment centre contract performance on the basis of value rather than activity. This is to allow for the variations, which can occur through substitution of activity between procedures of varying value.

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what impact the Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre has had on *(a)* capacity and *(b)* waiting times in Staffordshire hospitals in each year since it was established. [130202]

Andy Burnham: The Midlands Treatment Centre, located in Burton, has been able to provide additional surgical capacity in the Staffordshire area while offering patients a wider choice of provider for their treatment.

It is also believed that the facility has helped local national health service hospitals in achieving their maximum waiting time targets. As at January 2007, no patients in the Stoke on Trent, North Staffordshire and the South Staffordshire primary care trusts were waiting in excess of 26 weeks for inpatient treatment or 13 weeks for an outpatient appointment.

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what role Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre has in training medical staff; [130203]

(2) what staff the Burton Independent Sector Treatment Centre employs; and from where they were recruited. [130204]

Andy Burnham: The Midlands National Health Service Treatment Centre, situated in Burton, provides training and supervision to its medical staff. The training includes continuing professional development, infection control, equipment and information management and technology.

Junior doctors work in the treatment centre alongside consultants as part of their training programme. The consultants remain responsible for clinical care and the training delivered as required. The agreement is that the direction and management of training of clinical trainees largely replicates current NHS training processes.

The treatment centre employs 179 staff (headcount), the majority of which were recruited from the United Kingdom.

Cancer

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research is sponsored by her Department to assess the effectiveness of dichloroacetate in attacking cancer cells. [123532]

Caroline Flint: None. The Medical Research Council (MRC), one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research, is currently funding a broad portfolio of cancer research, including early stage trials and basic and underpinning research. The MRC has not received or considered any proposals to assess the effectiveness of dichloroacetate in attacking cancer cells. The Council always welcomes high quality applications for support in any aspect of biomedical research and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people diagnosed with cancer there were in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Gloucestershire, broken down by type of cancer in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [131171]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 April 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people diagnosed with cancer there were in (a) England and Wales and (b) Gloucestershire, broken down by type of cancer in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [131171]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of cancer in England are for the years 2004. Figures for 2000-2004 for (a) England and Wales and (b) the county of Gloucestershire are given in Table 1 below. Table 1 provides data for 'all cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer' and the four most common cancers—breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate—which accounted for more than half of new cases of malignant cancer (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer) registered in England and Wales in 2004.

Table 1: Registrations of newly-diagnosed cases of cancer by selected cancer[1], sex and region, 2000-04

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Males					
England and Wales					
All cancers xnmsc	122,046	124,103	123,225	123,917	126,539
Prostate	24,737	27,796	28,591	28,812	31,676
Lung	20,312	19,820	19,220	18,786	19,403
Colorectal	16,670	16,191	16,273	16,634	17,231

Table 1: Registrations of newly-diagnosed cases of cancer by selected cancer[1], sex and region, 2000-04

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Gloucestershire					
All cancers xnmsc	1,842	2,005	1,783	1,856	2,201
Prostate	309	354	301	324	373
Lung	176	189	146	151	147
Colorectal	189	191	161	198	212
Females					
England and Wales					
All cancers xnmsc	122,127	122,877	121,542	125,134	123,883
Breast	35,978	36,493	36,670	38,901	39,308
Colorectal	14,248	13,955	13,926	13,894	14,361
Lung	12,882	12,768	12,687	13,042	13,269
Gloucestershire					
All cancers xnmsc	1,921	1,865	1,778	1,907	2,429
Breast	435	467	443	526	471
Colorectal	176	154	154	154	163
Lung	127	110	106	134	93

[1] Cancers are coded to the International Classification of Diseases (Tenth Revision):
Colorectal C18-21, Lung C33-34, Breast C50, Prostate C61, All cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer C00-97 xC44.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Cancer: Urinary System

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the progress of cancer networks in implementing the Improving Outcomes guidance for urological cancers; [128525]

(2) what mechanisms she has put in place to ensure that service providers commissioned by her Department are meeting the Improving Outcomes guidance for urological cancers in relation to *(a)* multi-disciplinary team working and *(a)* access to specialist nurses. [128660]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Strategic health authorities were asked to submit action plans to demonstrate how they will implement the guidance on Improving Outcomes in urological cancers. Progress against these action plans is monitored by the Department and the Healthcare Commission. The majority of cancer networks reported at December 2006 that the guidance would be fully implemented by December 2007.

The guidance has also been translated into a series of measures for inclusion in the Manual of Cancer Services 2004. All cancer networks in England have now been peer reviewed against these measures, which include measures about urological cancer multi-disciplinary teams including urology nurse specialists. Reports of the local peer review visits for each cancer network can be found on the Cancer Quality Improvement Network System (CQuINS) database at www.cquins.nhs.uk. A national summary will also be produced and is expected to be available in the summer.

Care Homes

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the UK aged 75 years or over are living in *(a)* public sector residential care homes and *(b)* private sector residential care homes. [130279]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many approved care homes for the *(a)* elderly and *(b)* other vulnerable people there are in England. [129160]

Andy Burnham: The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), as the official regulator of social care provision, registers and inspects all care homes in England. It is important to note that care homes are not approved by CSCI. Registration with and inspection by CSCI simply signifies that a home is permitted to operate.

I am informed by the chair of CSCI that care homes are not registered as homes for older people (those aged over 65) or for younger adults (those aged 18-64). Many take in a mix of client groups. The following table shows the number of homes in England which have been regulated by CSCI against the national minimum standards (NMS) for care homes for older people and the NMS for care homes for younger adults.

	Number
Total number of homes	[1]18,718
Care homes regulated against NMS for care homes for older people	10,671
Care homes regulated against NMS for care homes for younger adults	7,428

[1] This total is greater than the sum of the two categories of home due to the fact that some homes (such as new homes) had not been regulated against the NMS by 1 April 2006.
Source:
CSCI report The State of Social Care in England2005-06. Figures at 31 March 2006

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why Torbay Primary Care Trust (PCT) reimbursed care home fees to Mr. Mike Pearce; what precedent has been set by the PCT's decision; what estimate she has made of the liabilities of the NHS for future repayments of denied continuing care funding; what framework Torbay used to re-assess the case; and what the total NHS expenditure was in England in 2005-06 on *(a)* care homes and *(b)* care home places for those with Alzheimer's disease. [119803]

Caroline Flint: Following the Health Service Ombudsman's report "NHS Funding for Long Term Care of Older and Disabled People", the national health service has carried out retrospective reviews of over 12,000 cases where fully funded NHS care was denied, dating back to 1996. The case of Mr. Pearce's mother was one of these retrospective reviews of her

eligibility for continuing care. This retrospective review found that Mrs. Pearce was wrongly denied NHS funding for her care, and so Torbay Care Trust reimbursed care home fees for the period of time when they considered they should have been paying for her care.

The care trust will continue to take the same approach to any other retrospective reviews they have to conduct, but no national precedent has been set.

In 2004, primary care trusts (PCTs) estimated that they would pay approximately £180 million in repayment as a consequence of the retrospective reviews of cases following the Ombudsman's report.

Torbay Care Trust used the strategic health authority's (SHA) eligibility criteria, which have been reviewed in accordance with guidance issued by the Department since the Coughlan and Grogan judgments. In their consideration of Mrs. Pearce's case, they used the draft decision support tool, published as part of the Department's consultation in 2006 , to help them gather information about Mrs. Pearce's needs. This information was then tested against the criteria already in place in the SHA.

. Further clarification for PCTs about redress, in cases where it has been found that NHS funding was wrongly withheld, was contained in guidance published by the Department in response to the publication of the joint report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Parliamentary Ombudsman) and the Health Service Ombudsman for England, Retrospective continuing care funding and redress, on 14 March 2007.

The information requested on NHS expenditure on care home and care home places is not held centrally.

Care Homes: Manpower

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what regulations determine the ratio of nursing staff to patients in *(a)* nursing and *(b)* residential homes; what those ratios are; and if she will make a statement. [130725]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Regulation 18 of the Care Homes Regulations 2001, which apply to both nursing and residential homes, requires that the registered person shall, having regard to the size of the care home, the statement of purpose and the number and needs of service users, ensure that at all times suitably qualified, competent and experienced persons are working in the care home in such numbers as are appropriate for the health and welfare of service users.

Specific ratios are not laid down, either in the Regulations or the national minimum standards, which the regulator, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, must have regard to when inspecting care homes to establish compliance with the regulations.

Staffing ratios must be determined according to service users' health and care needs; these may vary from home to home and from day to day. It is a provider's obligation in law to ensure that their establishment is appropriately staffed on a day to day basis.

Carers: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of the funding made available to local authorities for respite care for carers in the recent New Deal for Carers statement will be allocated to Peterborough City Council; and if she will make a statement; [123830]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of carers in the Peterborough City Council area for the purposes of the allocation of funding to assist with respite care are under the New Deal for Carers. [123831]

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her written statement of 21 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 49WS, on the New Deal for Carers, how much of the additional £25 million available to local authorities in England for the provision of short term home-based respite care she expects to be allocated to Oxfordshire County Council. [124263]

Andy Burnham: There were 670 carers who received an assessment or a review in Peterborough council during the year 2005-06, of which 200 carers received a break and or carers specific services.

In 2007-08 Peterborough city council will receive £1.959 million for carers, of which £233,000 will support the provision of emergency respite care.

During the same period Oxfordshire county council will receive £0.686 million for carers, of which £82,000 will support the provision of emergency respite care.

A table detailing the amounts each council will be allocated has been placed in the Library.

Cataracts: Surgery

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for cataract operations in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* County Durham and *(c)* England in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many cataract operations were cancelled and re-arranged following an initial date for the operation being given in the same period. [129489]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The average waiting times for cataract operations in the former strategic health authorities for County Durham and Tees Valley and North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire in 2005-06 are given in the following table.

Strategic health authority	*Median time waited (days)*
County Durham and Tees Valley	62
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	75
England	69

Notes:
1. Data are for finished admission episodes, i.e. the first period of in-patient care under one consultant with one Healthcare provider.
2. Time waited is the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates.

Source:
Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

The Department does not collect data on numbers of cancelled operations for individual procedures such as cataract operations.

Bowel Cancer Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* newly trained non-medical endoscopists and *(b)* medical endoscopists were delivered by the national endoscopy training programme in each year since its creation; [129628]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of additional endoscopists required to support a fully-implemented national bowel cancer screening programme. [129629]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* Training in endoscopy (bowel scoping) is vital to the diagnosis of bowel cancer. To prepare for the bowel cancer screening programme, we have built on the training established as part of the national health service cancer plan. A national training programme has been established, with three national and seven regional centres, to train medical staff, general practitioners, nurses and other health professionals to carry out vital procedures for diagnosing bowel cancer. The options appraisal analysis for the introduction of the bowel cancer screening programme estimated that an additional 61,274 endoscopies would be required equating to 14 additional endoscopy units staffed by four trained nurse endoscopists and 1.4 whole-time equivalent gastroenterologists. It is for cancer networks to work in partnership with strategic health authorities and postgraduate deaneries to put in place a sustainable process to assess, plan and review their workforce needs and the education and training of all staff linked to local and national priorities for cancer.

Based on current trends and definitions the training programme is projected to deliver the following training courses by the end of 2006-07.

National endoscopy training programme courses

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Total*
Medical endoscopists	494	249	618	1,361
Non medical endoscopists	60	61	26	147
Total	554	310	644	1,508

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) further to her Department's press release on the bowel cancer screening programme of 2 August 2005, how the figure of £37.5 million of expenditure will be broken down over the first two years of the programme's implementation; [130553]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1190W, on bowel cancer screening, what funding earmarked for the programme has been included in the Strategic Health Authority bundle for 2007-08. [130595]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* Funding for the national health service bowel cancer screening programme is included in the strategic health authority (SHA) bundle, that incorporates a number of budgets formally managed directly by the Department.

Around £10 million was made available for wave one of the programme in 2006-07. The value of the SHA bundle for 2007-08 is £6,945.78 million, and was announced in the NHS operating framework that was published on 11 December 2006 to the NHS. £27.5 million was included in the SHA bundle for the bowel screening programme. Allocations are made direct to SHAs, and they manage the distribution of funds among the different programmes, including the bowel cancer screening programme, taking account of local circumstances.

This is an ambitious project and the Government are committed to ensuring that the necessary funding is available to ensure the full implementation of the bowel cancer screening programme.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to her Department's press release on the bowel cancer screening programme of 2 August 2005, what steps she will take to assess whether the target for 25 per cent. coverage of England by the end of 2006-07 has been met; and what estimate she has made of the proportion of England currently covered by the programme. [130554]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* We started the roll-out of the programme slightly later than originally intended. However, we took all the practical steps possible to prepare for the roll-out and to minimise the delay. All five programme hubs in England are now operational, and 15 of the eventual 90 to 100 local screening centres opened in 2006-07. These cover 49 out of 152 primary care trusts in England, covering a population of 13 million, around 26 per cent. of the English population. It is for strategic health authorities working in partnership with their primary care trusts and local stakeholders to organise and deliver services for their local populations. We expect around half of the local screening centres to be operational by March 2008, with full overage in England by December 2009.

The bowel cancer screening programme is an ambitious project, and one of the first of its kind in Europe. When fully implemented, it will screen around 2 million men and women and detect around 3,000 bowel cancers every year. We are committed to implementing this important programme.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if her Department will extend the national bowel cancer screening programme to those aged *(a)* 70 and over and *(b)* between 50 and 60. [130800]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The bowel cancer screening programme is beginning by inviting men and women aged 60 to 69 to be screened as the risk of bowel cancer increases with age, with over 80 per cent. of bowel cancers arising in people who are 60 or over.

The successful national health service pilot study also showed that men and women in their 60s were more likely to take up their invitations for screening than men and women in their 50s.

Within the programme, men and women aged 70 and over are able to self-refer for screening every two years.

When we have rolled out the programme to the whole of England, we will make an assessment of whatever next steps may be required, including looking at the age range.

Colorectal Cancer: Surgery

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many rectal cancer operations were carried out by the NHS in each of the last three years; and what the cost of such operations was in each year. [130483]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of operations relating to rectal and colon cancer in the last three years for which figures are available, is shown in the following table.

Information on the cost of these operations is not available.

Count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with an operation and with a primary diagnosis of colon and rectum insitu and secondary neoplasms between 2003-04 and 2005-06

	FCEs
2003-04	130,451
2004-05	129,357
2005-06	136,979

Notes:

1. Diagnosis (primary diagnosis): The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
2. Finished consultant episode (FCE): An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
3. Ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
4. Main operation: The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, e.g. time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.

Source:

(HES) The Information Centre for health and social care.

The following ICD-10 diagnosis codes were used to look for procedures in the primary procedure field:

C18 Malignant neoplasm of colon
C18.0 Caecum
C18.1 Appendix
C18.2 Ascending colon
C18.3 Hepatic flexure
C18.4 Transverse colon
C18.5 Splenic flexure
C18.6 Descending colon
C18.7 Sigmoid colon
C18.8 Overlapping lesion of colon
C18.9 Colon, unspecified
C19 Malignant neoplasm of rectosigmoid junction
C20 Malignant neoplasm of rectum
C21 Malignant neoplasm of anus and anal canal
C21.0 Anus, unspecified
C21.1 Anal canal
C21.2 Cloacogenic zone
C21.8 Overlapping lesion of rectum, anus and anal canal

The following ICD-10 codes relate to only the rectum

C19 Malignant neoplasm of rectosigmoid junction
C20 Malignant neoplasm of rectum
C21.8 Overlapping lesion of rectum, anus and anal canal

Secondary neoplasms

C75.5 Secondary malignant neoplasm of large intestine and rectum

Insitu neoplasms

D01 Carcinoma in situ of other and unspecified digestive organs
D01.0 Colon
D01.1 Rectosigmoid junction
D01.2 Rectum
D01.3 Anus and anal canal

Community Care: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* primary care trusts spent on social care for people in (i) their own homes and (ii) care homes in each of the last five years. [126547]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following two tables provide information on the gross current expenditure from councils with social services responsibilities (CSSRs) for residential care, home care and other community-based services for both adults and children in England for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06. Expenditure data on social care by primary care trusts are not centrally available.

Gross current expenditure on residential care, home care and other community-based services for adults, England 2001-02 to 2005-06

£000

	Residential care[1]	*Home care*	*Other community-based services*
2001-02	5,393,700	1,690,900	1,593,400
2002-03	6,314,400	1,795,800	1,690,000
2003-04	6,313,900	1,982,100	1,847,500
2004-05	6,740,100	2,220,000	2,048,400
2005-06	7,042,900	2,486,400	2,258,600

Note:

From 2002-03 onwards the data on adults includes clients that transferred to CSSR support on 8 April 2002 who were formerly in receipt of higher rates of income support under the DWP preserved rights (PR) scheme.

Source:

PSS EX1, Information Centre.

Gross current expenditure on residential care, home care and other community-based services for children, England 2001-02 to 2005-06

£000

	Residential care	*Home care*	*Other community-based services*
2001-02	815,200	21,100	1,469,100
2002-03	879,400	24,500	1,690,200
2003-04	982,400	27,300	1,944,200
2004-05	1,063,900	31,200	2,190,600
2005-06	1,103,600	32,700	2,366,700

Dental Services: West Sussex

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were in *(a)* Arundel and South Downs constituency and *(b)* West Sussex in (i) 1997 and (ii) each of the last three years for which figures are available. [127706]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Table 1 shows information on the number of national health service dentists as at 31 March 1997 and 2004 to 2006 for the areas requested, based on the old contractual arrangements.

The latest workforce information, as at 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006, is based on the new contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, and is available at primary care trust (PCT), strategic health authority (SHA) and England level. This information is provided in Table 2. To provide these data at constituency level would incur disproportionate cost. Data based on the old contractual arrangements are not directly comparable to those under the new contractual arrangements.

Information is taken from the following reports:

NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006

NHS Dental Statistics for England Quarter 3, 31 December 2006.

Both reports are available in the Library.

Table 1: General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Numbers of NHS dentists in the specified constituency and PCTs as at 31 March each year

	1997	2004	2005	2006
Arundel and South Downs constituency	29	23	23	22
Adur, Arun and Worthing PCT	90	120	138	154
Crawley PCT	48	65	83	99
Horsham and Chanctonbury PCT	51	69	72	69
Mid-Sussex PCT	67	110	118	129
Western Sussex PCT	67	88	95	98

Notes:
1. Dentists consist of principals, assistants and trainees. Information on NHS dentistry in the community dental service, in hospitals and in prisons is excluded.
2. A dentist can provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed within the contract. In some cases an NHS dentist may be listed to carry out NHS work but may not do so for a given period.
3. Information is based on NHS dentists on PCT lists from the BSA.
4. PCT boundaries are as at 30 September 2006.
5. The PCTs listed are those that now form West Sussex PCT as a result of the 1 October 2006 PCT boundary changes.
6. Constituency boundaries may have changed over time therefore these data may not be directly comparable.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care. NHS Business Services Authority (BSA).

Table 2: Numbers of NHS dentists (performers) in the specified PCTs as at 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006

	2006		
	30 June	30 September	31 December
West Sussex PCT	477	478	474

Notes:
1. A performer is defined as a dentist who has been set up on the BSA payments online (POL) system by the PCT to work under an open contract during the relevant time period.
2. Data provided are a count of the individuals listed as performers on open contracts within a PCT, including orthodontists.
3. A dentist can provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed within the contract. In some cases an NHS dentist may be listed to carry out NHS work but may not do so for a given period.
4. Data consists of performers in general dental services (GDS), personal dental services (PDS) and trust-led dental services.
5. PCT boundaries are as at 1 October 2006.
6. The PCTs listed are those that now form West Sussex PCT as a result of the 1 October 2006 PCT boundary changes.
7. Dentists will be counted more than once if they have contracts in more than one PCT.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care. NHS Business Services Authority.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were registered with an NHS dentist in (i) the Arundel and South Downs constituency and (ii) West Sussex in (A) 1997 and (B) each of the last three years for which figures are available. [127707]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Table 1 shows information on the number of adult and child patients registered with a national health service dentist for the areas requested as at 31 March 1997 and 2004 to 2006, based on the old contractual arrangements and under the PCT boundaries as at 30 September 2006.

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, registration data are no longer collected centrally. Instead, there is a new measure on patients seen within the previous 24 months. The latest information on total numbers of patients seen within the previous 24 months is provided in table 2. Information in table 2 is under the primary care trust (PCT) boundaries as at 1 October 2006. To provide these data at constituency level would incur disproportionate cost.

Information is taken from the following reports:

NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006

NHS Dental Statistics for England Quarter 3, 31 December 2006.

Both reports are available in the Library.

Table 1: General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Numbers of adult and child patients registered with an NHS dentist in the specified constituency and PCTs as at 31 March each year

	1997		2004		2005		2006	
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children
Arundel and South Downs constituency	26,321	9,942	17,133	8,665	16,308	8,076	16,195	7,948
Adur, Arun and Worthing PCT	95,517	29,767	72,816	31,742	71,529	31,386	76,564	32,367
Crawley PCT	25,746	14,778	21,873	15,155	20,951	14,168	28,534	16,908
Horsham and Chanctonbury PCT	47,142	18,635	33,141	16,915	34,486	16,953	37,429	17,847
Mid-Sussex PCT	56,444	22,810	48,105	24,542	45,742	23,779	47,790	23,677
Western Sussex PCT	72,279	23,186	71,900	27,057	68,379	25,854	63,639	24,716

Notes:
1. Child patient registrations are aged 0 to 17 and adults are aged 18 and over.
2. PCT boundaries are as at 30 September 2006.
3. The PCTs listed are those that now form West Sussex PCT as a result of the 1 October 2006 PCT boundary changes.
4. Constituency boundaries may have changed over time therefore these data may not be directly comparable.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care. NHS Business Services Authority.

Table 2: Number of patients seen in the previous 24 months ending 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006 in the specified PCT

	30 June 2006		30 September 2006		31 December 2006	
	Adult	*Child*	*Adult*	*Child*	*Adult*	*Child*
West Sussex PCT	292,188	126,918	290,952	126,826	290,443	126,953

Notes:
1. PCT boundaries are as at 1 October 2006.
2. Patients have been identified by using surname, first initial, gender and date of birth.
3. The age of the patient as at the last day of the 24 month period is used to allocate between adult or child in the most recent form processed.
4. Child patient registrations are aged 0-17 and adults are aged 18 and over.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care. NHS Business Services Authority.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts her Department has with *(a)* Alliance Medical, *(b)* Amicus Healthcare, *(c)* BUPA Healthcare, *(d)* Capio Healthcare, *(e)* Clincienta, *(f)* Mercury Health, *(g)* Nations Healthcare, *(h)* Netcare Healthcare, *(i)* Nuffield Hospitals, *(j)* Partnership Health Group and *(k)* UKSH; what the purpose of the contract is in each case; how long each contract is for; and how much she estimates will have been paid in total via these contracts in 2006-07. [129890]

Andy Burnham: Contracts for the independent sector and the purpose of each is shown in the following table. Contracts are generally for five years.

Provider	*Contract*
Capio	One contract to provide Independent Sector Treatment Centre (ISTC) services
Alliance Medical	One contract to provide mobile MRI services
Amicus Healthcare	None
Bupa Healthcare	A provider through the Independent Sector Extended Choice Network (IS ECN)[1]
Mercury Health	One contract to provide ISTCs services one contract for diagnostic services.
Nations Healthcare	Two contracts to provide ISTC services
Netcare Healthcare	Two contracts to provide NHS Walk In Centres with a commuter focus one contract to provide ISTC services one contract to provide mobile ophthalmic services
Nuffield Hospitals	A provider through the Independent Sector Extended Choice Network (IS ECN)[1]
Partnership Health Group	Four contracts to provide ISTC services
UKSH	One contract to provide ISTC services

[1] IS ECN providers are members of a framework and are paid on a per procedure basis and do not have five year contracts.

Financial information on individual contracts is commercially sensitive, the total value paid on all the ISTC programme contracts in 2006-07 is £216 million.

Departments: Work Permits

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many work permits were applied for by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [126801]

Caroline Flint: The Department applied for one work permit, in 2005.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, an executive agency of the Department, applied for two work permits in the last five years —one in 2003 and one in 2006.

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, an executive agency of the Department, applied for a total of two work permits—one applied for in 2003 and one in 2007.

Diabetes: Screening

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered diabetics had access to blood testing strips for home testing in each year since 1997. [129395]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data are not collected on the numbers of registered people with diabetes who have access to blood testing strips.

The following table shows the number of blood glucose monitoring strips dispensed in England from 1997 to 2006[1].

	Items
1997	1,971,463
1998	2,438,640
1999	2,857,441
2000	3,372,897
2001	3,987,930
2002	4,702,845
2003	5,077,542
2004	5,330,313
2005	5,553,611
2006[1]	4,263,166

[1] 2006—figures are for the first nine months only

PCA Data

Prescription information is taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Authority (PPA), and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.

Prescription Items

Prescriptions are written on a prescription form. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item. A person with diabetes may get more than one prescription item each year.

Drugs: Internet

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the availability of *(a)* phentermine, *(b)* diethylpropiom, *(c)* reductil and *(d)* orlistat from internet suppliers; what mechanisms are in place to promote appropriate medical supervision for those obtaining and using drugs through the internet; and if she will make a statement. [130809]

Caroline Flint: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency routinely monitors medicines being offered for sale on the Internet and is concerned about the increase in the online availability of medicines, including slimming pills.

In the United Kingdom (UK), there are strict legal controls on the retail sale, supply and advertisement of medicinal products. These controls apply without distinction to medicines sold or supplied through Internet transactions and mail order.

Slimming drugs are, generally speaking, classified as prescription only medicines (POM) and are available only after a consultation with a healthcare practitioner. Products purchased from Internet sites cannot be guaranteed for their quality, safety and efficacy, nor can their effects on patients be monitored. For these reasons, the supply of POMs is strictly controlled in the UK and breaches in regulatory requirements are investigated.

Additionally, specific information relating to slimming products and other medicines considered to be at risk of counterfeiting are circulated to stakeholders in order to increase vigilance through more focused surveillance and inspections.

Mechanisms for promoting suitable medical supervision, however, are matters of professional practice and are not covered by medicines legislation.

Drugs: Licensing

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to publish a technical appraisal on naltrexore as a treatment for relapse prevention; and if she will make a statement. [130354]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), published a technical appraisal on naltrexone as a treatment for relapse prevention on 24 January 2007.

The National Treatment Agency (NTA) is supporting the Department in developing an implementation strategy for the dissemination of the NICE technology appraisal on naltrexone and their other current work relating to drug treatment. This strategy will seek to ensure that complementary initiatives undertaken by NICE and the NTA are disseminated in a coherent and co-ordinated way to inform the commissioners and providers of drug treatment.

Drugs: Side Effects

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Yellow Card system for reporting adverse reactions to drugs; how many incidents were reported in each of the past three years; what estimate she has made of the level of under-reporting in each of the last three years; and what steps she is taking to improve matters; [121065]

(2) what assessment she has made of the merits of introducing a requirement for doctors to report adverse reactions to *(a)* licensed and *(b)* unlicensed drugs; [121229]

(3) what assessment she has made of the merits of extending the remit of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in order to allow it to monitor adverse reactions to unlicensed drugs. [121230]

Caroline Flint: The Yellow Card Scheme is used to collect reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) associated with any marketed medicinal product, including those available on prescription or purchased from a pharmacy, or a general retail outlet. The scheme encompasses unlicensed as well as licensed products, including herbal products.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) are continually working to increase the quality and quantity of reports received via the Yellow Card Scheme.

The following table shows the number of reports received in the past three years.

	Number of reports
2006	23,992
2005	22,127
2004	20,037

In 2003, an independent review of the Yellow Card Scheme strongly endorsed the value and importance of the Scheme for public health and the benefit of patients. The MHRA is currently developing a strategy in consultation with the CHM to build on these recommendations in order to further strengthen reporting to the Yellow Card Scheme.

It is recognised that voluntary spontaneous reporting systems such as the Yellow Card Scheme are associated with an unknown level of under-reporting. It has been estimated that 10 per cent. of serious ADRs and between 2 and 4 per cent. of non-serious ADRs are reported and that serious reactions are five times more likely to be reported than non-serious reactions.

The value of introducing mandatory reporting of suspected ADRs by healthcare professionals has been considered on several occasions, most recently during the independent review of the Yellow Card Scheme. Available evidence indicates that there is no clear increase in rates of reporting in countries with mandatory reporting when compared with those where

reporting is voluntary. Furthermore there would be practical difficulties in enforcing mandatory reporting. The Independent Review did not recommend a mandatory system for suspected ADR reporting in the United Kingdom.

Drugs: Testing

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency first began investigating the withholding of data from clinical trials of paroxetine; when she expects the Criminal Investigation Unit to take a decision on whether to refer the case to the police; whether she has the ultimate authority to decide whether a matter under investigation by the Criminal Investigation Unit is referred to the police; and if she will make a statement. [118142]

Caroline Flint: The criminal investigation into whether GlaxoSmithKline PLC withheld from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) information from paediatric clinical trials of their drug Seroxat (the United Kingdom brand name for paroxetine) was commenced by the Enforcement and Intelligence Group of the MHRA on 1 October 2003.The investigation is ongoing.

Criminal investigations into alleged breaches of medicines regulations are the statutory responsibility of the Secretary of State and are carried out by authorised officers in the Enforcement and Intelligence Group at MHRA.

Essex Rivers Healthcare Trust

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* hospital nurses, *(b)* junior hospital doctors and *(c)* other nurses were employed in the Essex Rivers Healthcare Trust in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [129624]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The information is not collected centrally in the form requested. However, the following table shows doctors in training alongside nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff figures as at 30 September 2005.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Doctors in training and nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff within Essex Rivers Healthcare National Health Service Trust

Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust as at 30 September 2005	*Number (headcount)*
All medical and dental staff	330
Of which:	
Doctors in training	170
All Nursing staff	1,531
Of which:	
Qualified nurses	1,100

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census.
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

General Practitioners: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many GPs in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex have opted out of working overtime; [130946]

(2) how many GPs in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex (i) do and (ii) do not work on an out-of-office hours contract. [130965]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally.

General Practitioners: Standards

Mr. Holloboone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets for productivity improvement from GP practices she has set for the next three years. [131013]

Andy Burnham: As part of the General Medical Services contract for 2006-07, the BMA and NHS Employers (on behalf of the Department) agreed that primary medical care contractors should be subject to the same level of efficiency improvement placed on other parts of the national health service. This remains our expectation.

Gynaecology

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients referred to hospital with fibroid-related dysfunctional uterine bleeding (menorrhagia) underwent *(a)* myomectomy and *(b)* uterine artery embolisation as an alternative to hysterectomy in each of the last five years, broken down by strategic health authority. [124949]

Caroline Flint: This information cannot be provided in the format requested.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were referred to hospital with dysfunctional uterine bleeding (menorrhagia) in each of the last five years, in each strategic health authority area. [124950]

Caroline Flint: This information is shown in the following tables.

Count of finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding and Menorrhagia** NHS hospitals in England. 2001-02 to 2003-04*

		2001-02		*2002-03*		*2003-04*	
	Strategic health authority of treatment	*Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding*	*Menorrhagia*	*Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding*	*Menorrhagia*	*Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding*	*Menorrhagia*
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA	305	2,568	244	2,518	199	2,595
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	131	1,291	92	1,239	92	1,194

Count of finished admission episodes where the primary diagnosis was Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding and Menorrhagia** NHS hospitals in England. 2001-02 to 2005-06*

		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Strategic health authority of treatment	*Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding*	*Menorrhagia*	*Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding*	*Menorrhagia*	*Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding*	*Menorrhagia*
Q03	Essex HA	299	1,403	319	1,251	348	1,422
Q04	North West London HA	114	1,285	62	1,334	90	1,588
Q05	North Central London HA	166	1,569	177	1,704	181	1,463
Q06	North East London HA	140	1,863	84	1,910	90	1,839
Q07	South East London HA	59	1,401	69	1,634	80	1,459
Q08	South West London HA	84	1,173	101	1,155	90	1,254
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	366	1,788	336	2,011	316	2,018
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley HA	253	786	324	1,639	303	1,439
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA	356	2,650	353	2,508	503	2,638
Q12	West Yorkshire HA	404	3,472	428	3,276	407	3,001
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire HA	115	1,598	231	2,428	213	2,356
Q14	Greater Manchester HA	334	1,838	359	2,806	360	2,687
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside HA	600	3,580	586	3,367	582	3,224
Q16	Thames Valley HA	163	2,614	187	3,148	172	2,594
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA	297	1,872	296	1,835	258	1,533
Q18	Kent and Medway HA	281	1,904	347	1,754	302	1,653
Q19	Surrey and Sussex HA	112	1,307	174	2,299	168	2,384
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	239	1,489	268	2,079	228	2,164
Q21	South West Peninsula HA	141	1,919	124	1,768	84	1,638
Q22	Dorset and Somerset HA	141	1,467	129	1,399	109	1,484
Q23	South Yorkshire HA	372	1,386	391	1,564	488	1,549
Q24	Trent HA	448	2,969	414	3,055	396	2,947
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	271	1,874	246	1,654	157	2,106
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	272	2,202	150	2,652	180	2,611
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country HA	305	3,275	307	3,340	454	3,210
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA	159	1,913	189	2,017	214	1,668
Y	Not known	443	4,728	—	—	—	—

		2004-05		2005-06	
	Strategic health authority of treatment	*Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding*	*Menorrhagia*	*Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding*	*Menorrhagia*
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire HA	193	2,351	171	2,492
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire HA	60	1,290	83	1,193
Q03	Essex HA	282	1,408	235	1,422
Q04	North West London HA	49	1,473	50	1,738
Q05	North Central London HA	166	1,399	93	1,282
Q06	North East London HA	48	1,939	63	2,097
Q07	South East London HA	87	1,433	88	1,755
Q08	South West London HA	78	1,337	82	1,257
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear HA	290	1,884	193	1,926
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley HA	248	1,460	319	1,452
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire HA	394	2,694	287	3,023

	Strategic health authority of treatment	2004-05 Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding	2004-05 Menorrhagia	2005-06 Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding	2005-06 Menorrhagia
Q12	West Yorkshire HA	291	2,860	222	2,573
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire HA	235	2,276	248	2,593
Q14	Greater Manchester HA	332	2,602	267	2,784
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside HA	420	2,778	429	3,588
Q16	Thames Valley HA	165	2,408	172	2,811
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight HA	279	1,513	241	1,596
Q18	Kent and Medway HA	233	1,490	334	1,776
Q19	Surrey and Sussex HA	203	2,241	235	2,509
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire HA	154	2,141	163	2,184
Q21	South West Peninsula HA	125	1,564	124	1,709
Q22	Dorset and Somerset HA	78	1,384	116	1,344
Q23	South Yorkshire HA	585	1,941	215	2,122
Q24	Trent HA	316	2,938	241	2,937
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland HA	166	2,020	325	2,657
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire HA	171	2,623	79	2,207
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country HA	280	2,923	273	3,303
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire HA	217	1,730	212	1,839
Y	Not known	—	—	—	—

[1] Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed.

Notes:

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

Selected primary diagnosis codes for Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding and Menorrhagia***

*Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding**

N93.8 Other specified abnormal uterine and vaginal bleeding
Includes dysfunctional or functional uterine or vaginal bleeding NOS

*Menorrhagia***

Menorrhagia is the term for excessive or frequent menstruation.
N92.0 Excessive and frequent menstruation with regular cycle
Includes Heavy periods NOS
Menorrhagia NOS
Polymenoirrhoea
N92.2 Excessive menstruation at puberty
Includes Excessive bleeding associated with onset of menstrual periods
Pubertal menorrhagia
Puberty bleeding
N92.4 Excessive bleeding in premenopausal period
Includes Menorrhagia or metrorrhagia
Climacteric
Menopausal
Proclimacteric
Premenopausal
N95.0 Post menopausal bleeding

Data Quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCT's) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients referred to hospital with dysfunctional uterine bleeding (menorrhagia) underwent *(a)* a hysterectomy and *(b)* ablation as an alternative to hysterectomy in each of the last five years, in each strategic health authority area. [124951]

Caroline Flint: This information cannot be provided in the format requested.

HC1 Form

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* people aged under 25 years and *(b)* higher education students applied for assistance with their health costs through the HC1 form in 2005; and how many people from each category received such help. [108687]

Caroline Flint: The following table provides an estimate of those claiming for help with their health costs via the HC1 form (based on 2005-06 data as figures are not available for the calendar year 2005).

Those in receipt of HC2 certificates receive full help consisting of free prescriptions, sight tests, NHS dental treatment, wigs and fabric supports and travel to receive national health service treatment under the care of a consultant. The HC3 certificate provides partial help with the cost of the above, with the exception of prescriptions which are not free.

	Under 25	All students including those under 25
HC1 claims	136,815	100,860
HC2 entitlements	72,731	57,213
HC3 entitlements	57,599	43,647

Source:
Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority

Health Professions: Foreign Workers

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses recruited to the NHS from outside the European Union (i) were found guilty of malpractice in each of the last five years and (ii) are being investigated for malpractice. [128944]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collect this information centrally. The General Medical Council and the General Nursing and Midwifery Council hold the register of doctors and nurses who practise in the United Kingdom, and make decisions on investigations and erasure from their registers.

Health Services

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rules govern the purchase of health services from hospitals by primary care trusts with more than one hospital from which to commission services. [124108]

Andy Burnham: "The NHS in England: operating framework for 2007-08" signalled the introduction of a new national health service contract for primary care trusts to use when commissioning acute secondary care services covered by payment by results (PbR), from NHS trusts, NHS foundation trusts and independent sector providers. The NHS contract for acute hospital services covers agreements between primary care trusts (PCTs) and providers for the delivery of acute hospital-based care. The contract enables patients to choose where they are referred for elective care, and hospitals will be paid by PCT commissioners according to PbR rules for the work they do.

The rules and principles relating to the operation of the contract are set out in "Guidance on the NHS Contract for Acute Hospital Services for 2007-08". A copy of this document is available in the Library. All acute NHS trust will adopt the new contract from April 2007. The contract will be applied to NHS foundation trusts either from April 2007 or subsequently, from the earliest point at which their pre-existing contracts become invalid.

The principles of patient choice apply equally to services provided by NHS foundation trusts which remain on the previous form of contract.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1579W, on health services, if she will give a breakdown of her estimate that 90 per cent. of people's contacts with the health service take place outside hospitals. [127605]

Andy Burnham: A breakdown of the 90 per cent. of contacts with the health service that take place outside hospital has been estimated as follows: 26 per cent. with the family doctor service, 59 per cent. prescription items dispensed in the community and 5 per cent. other services, including district nurses and other community based staff.

Health Services: Internet

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the decision was taken not to continue to fund the Best Treatments website; and if she will make a statement. [123567]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 February 2007]:* Financial resources and new policy developments were deciding factors regarding the contract for Best Treatments. The Department remains committed to providing patients and the public with the information they need to make informed decisions about their healthcare and social care, but needs to target resources where they will be most effective.

The Department will help people to find the excellent information that is already available rather than duplicate production. That is why we are developing information prescriptions and an information accreditation scheme. In this way, we will drive up quality of information and assure people that the information they access is reliable and relevant to them.

Health Services: North West Region

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any of the bidders for the *(a)* Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services and *(b)* Clinical Assessment Treatment Services centres in the North West are also (i) health care providers in the North West and (ii) owned, wholly or in part, by health care providers in the North West. [131762]

Andy Burnham: Netcare, who are the preferred bidder for the Cumbria and Lancashire Clinical Assessment, Treatment and Support (CATS) electives scheme and one of the two Greater Manchester CATS schemes, provides national health service services in the North West through the Greater Manchester Surgical Centre, part of Wave 1 of the Independent Sector Treatment Centre programme.

Health Services: Overseas Residence

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate she has made of the cost of providing free NHS treatment to UK citizens who are resident abroad in each of the last five years; [130392]

(2) what the estimated revenue from UK citizens resident abroad in NHS fees was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [130393]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In general, any United Kingdom citizen who resides abroad is treated as an overseas visitor and may be required to pay for national health service treatment under the provisions

of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended. Successive Governments have not required the NHS to provide statistics on the number of overseas visitors seen, treated or charged under these provisions, nor any costs involved. It is therefore not possible to provide the information requested.

Health: Irish Community

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to target the Irish community with culturally appropriate health promotion strategies in the areas of *(a)* smoking cessation, *(b)* healthy diet and *(c)* exercise. [128175]

Caroline Flint: Smoking cessation campaigns are predominantly targeted at the general population of smokers, and the highest prevalence group of 25-44 year olds in lower socio-economic groups (C2DE). We develop our campaigns with appropriate messaging for this group based on insights into their smoking behaviour, with additional campaign materials developed for communities where cultural factors affect the accessibility of these messages. There has been no evidence yet suggested by research that members of the Irish community in our target audience will be less receptive to the core national campaign messages, or experience accessibility issues. Individual PCTs that have substantial Irish communities within their catchment area may run targeted public health campaigns for this group.

On healthy diet and exercise, we will be rolling out a series of initiatives linking in with partner organisations across the public sector, the food manufacturing and retail sector and with voluntary organisations to support families to live a healthy life based on a healthy diet and increased physical activity. The Healthy Living strategy is about providing support when and where it is required and in a way that people will respond to.

The most extensive survey on behaviours of minority ethnic groups ever carried out in England was published in April 2006. The Health Survey for England 2004 interviewed over 6,000 adults from black and minority ethnic communities including Irish communities. The proportion of Irish adults who met the five-a-day recommendation was 26 per cent. of Irish men and 32 per cent. of Irish women compared with 23 per cent. and 27 per cent. of the general population.

On exercise the proportion of Irish adults who reported physical activity rates at the chief medical officer's recommended level of at least 30 minutes a day, five days a week was 39 per cent. for men and 29 per cent. for women compared with the figures for the general population of 37 per cent. for men and 25 per cent. for women.

A copy of the survey is available in the Library.

Health: Regulatory Impact Assessment

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1005-06W, on Health: Regulatory Impact Assessment, on which items of legislation for which *(a)* her Department and *(b)* other Government Departments are responsible health impact assessments have been incorporated into the regulatory impact assessment process. [130414]

Andy Burnham: The specific information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Regulatory impact assessments (RIAs) for legislation made since health impact assessments were incorporated into the RIA framework are available in the Library and on Government Departments' websites.

Hearing Aids: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were provided with a digital hearing aid in each month by Gloucestershire Hospitals Trust since the current programme began. [130256]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Heart Diseases: Bolton

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in Bolton have participated in the Coronary Disease Programme. [130390]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Hepatitis

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* Hepatitis A, *(b)* Chronic Hepatitis B, *(c)* Hepatitis C, *(d)* Hepatitis D, *(e)* Hepatitis E, *(f)* Hepatitis F, *(g)* Hepatitis G and *(h)* Hepatitis H were reported in each year since 1997. [129015]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is provided in the following tables.

(a) Hepatitis A

	Number of reports
1997	1,272
1998	1,058
1999	1,357
2000	1,009
2001	785
2002	1,338
2003	984
2004	649
2005	444
2006	268

Note:
2006 data are provisional, and numbers are likely to increase.
Source:
Health Protection Agency (HPA)

(b) Chronic Hepatitis B

Data on chronic hepatitis B are not collected.

Data are collected on laboratory reports of acute Hepatitis B. Surveillance of the incidence of acute infection is used to monitor trends, to evaluate the Hepatitis B immunisation programme and to inform the development of national and local control policies.

(c) Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C laboratory reports, England 1997 to 2006

	Number of reports
1997	2,652
1998	4,098
1999	5,294
2000	4,917
2001	4,675
2002	5,590
2003	6,566
2004	7,993
2005	7,579
2006	5,842

Note:
2006 data are provision, and numbers are likely to increase
Source:
Health Protection Agency

(d) Hepatitis D

Data on Hepatitis D are not collected. Hepatitis D is a defective virus that replicates only in the presence of the Hepatitis B virus.

(e) Hepatitis E

Information is available from 2003 to 2006

Laboratory reports of Hepatitis E, England and Wales 2003 to 2006

	Number of reports
2003	125
2004	150
2005	329
2006	292

Source:
Health Protection Agency

(f) Hepatitis F

Hepatitis F is a hypothetical hepatitis virus. Several hepatitis F virus candidates emerged in the 1990s. Further investigations failed to confirm the existence of the virus, and it was delisted as a cause of infectious hepatitis.

(g) Hepatitis G

Data are not routinely collected on hepatitis G. Extensive worldwide investigation has failed to identify any association between the hepatitis G virus and hepatitis, and its clinical significance is unknown.

(h) Hepatitis H

There is currently no virus designated as hepatitis H.

Home Births

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of deliveries were home births in each year since 1995. [126162]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 April 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the number and proportion of deliveries that were home births in each year since 1995. (126162)

The latest year for which we have data is 2005. The attached table shows the number and percentage of maternities that took place at home in England and Wales in each year between 1995 and 2005.

Number and percentage of maternities taking place at home, England and Wales, 1995 to 2005

	Number of maternities		Percentage of maternities taking place at home
	at home	total	
1995	12,487	642,404	1.9
1996	13,460	643,862	2.1
1997	14,412	637,001	2.3
1998	13,815	629,926	2.2
1999	13,271	615,994	2.2
2000	12,803	598,580	2.1
2001	12,115	588,868	2.1
2002	12,697	590,453	2.2
2003	13,590	615,787	2.2
2004	14,506	633,728	2.3
2005	16,501	639,627	2.6

Source:
Birth Statistics, Series FM1 no. 24 to 34.

Hospital Stays

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what benchmarking her Department has undertaken of comparative lengths of hospital stay *(a)* between hospitals in England and *(b)* between hospitals in England and those in other countries. [130078]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* Data on length of stay by hospital in England is published annually by the Information Centre for Health and Social Care and can be found at www.hesonline.org. The median length of stay in hospital during 2005-06 was two days. Variation will reduce as the national health service continues to make progress towards its target of 18 weeks between referral and treatment.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publishes annual data which shows that average length of stay in the United Kingdom compares favourably with those in many other countries. This data can be obtained from OECD.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency readmissions there were in each quarter since the quarter ending June 2002; and what percentage of patients was readmitted as an emergency in each quarter. [118157]

Andy Burnham: Currently the best computations of readmission rates are those released by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD). They publish their data on a website at www.nchod.nhs.uk. Presently there are three years data from 2001-02 to 2003-04 at primary care trust (PCT) level. There are plans to produce an eight-year series up to 2005-06 at PCT and trust level. Other analyses could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Hospitals: Consultants

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region have restricted consultant-to-consultant referrals in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [121241]

Andy Burnham: The information is not available centrally as this is a matter for the national health service locally. Activity is agreed and monitored locally through contracts between co-ordinating commissioners and providers.

The Department published on 14 December 2006 good practice "Care and resource utilisation: ensuring appropriateness of care" that outlines some techniques that aim to ensure a more effective initial assessment, resulting in improved patient progress through the system and thereby reducing delays. The techniques are owned and agreed by clinicians, working in partnership across primary and secondary care, to deliver integrated, well-designed services. The document is available in the Library and at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_063265

Hospitals: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of patients have waited *(a)* under six, *(b)* six to 12 and *(c)* over 12 months for hospital inpatient treatment in each London primary care trust in each year since 2003. [128459]

Andy Burnham: The tables show the counts and percentage of finished in-year admissions with a valid time waited from 2002-03 to 2005-06, for all London primary care trusts of responsibility.

London primary care trusts of responsibility, All London primary care trusts of responsibility, Method of admission: elective (waiting list and booked cases), Counts and percentage of finished in-year admissions with a valid time waited, NHS hospitals, England 2002-03 to 2005-06

		2002-03						
		1 day to under 6 months		6 months to under 12 months		12 months and over		
		Finished in-year admissions	Percentage waited 1 day to under 6 months	Finished in-year admissions	Percentage waited 6 months to 12 months	Finished in-year admissions	Percentage waited more than 12 months	Number of elective waiting list and booked admissions where it is not possible to calculate accurate waiting times
5A9	Barnet PCT	15,299	84.1	2,126	11.7	766	4.2	1,802
5AX	Bexley PCT	13,076	82.8	1,715	10.9	998	6.3	1,148
5C1	Enfield PCT	10,117	73.5	2,119	15.4	1,533	11.1	2,555
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	8,798	82.9	1,283	12.1	536	5.0	125
5C6	Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PCT	5,198	68.1	1,420	18.6	1,011	13.3	221
5C7	Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	4,106	69.0	1,047	17.6	802	13.5	222
5C8	Redbridge PCT	8,615	76.5	1,463	13.0	1,179	10.5	1,139
5C9	Haringey PCT	10,273	82.2	1,555	12.4	676	5.4	1,999
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	8,815	89.7	766	7.8	243	2.5	2,310
5HX	Ealing PCT	19,752	88.5	1,701	7.6	875	3.9	5,554
5HY	Hounslow PCT	7,870	83.5	1,147	12.2	403	4.3	10,094
5K5	Brent PCT	14,762	87.0	1,665	9.8	535	3.2	2,856
5K6	Harrow PCT	8,554	82.9	1,337	13.0	423	4.1	2,018
5K7	Camden PCT	10,858	88.4	1,037	8.4	388	3.2	1,160
5K8	Islington PCT	10,773	87.8	1,102	9.0	399	3.3	1,653
5K9	Croydon PCT	13,550	79.8	2,216	13.1	1,209	7.1	3,925
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	6,335	88.8	652	9.1	150	2.1	1,964
5LC	Westminster PCT	8,923	88.3	948	9.4	232	2.3	1,875
5LD	Lambeth PCT	14,051	82.9	1,894	11.2	1,003	5.9	1,904
5LE	Southwark PCT	13,231	83.4	1,690	10.6	948	6.0	1,798
5LF	Lewisham PCT	15,575	81.9	2,403	12.6	1,032	5.4	2,713
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	8,952	77.9	1,775	15.4	772	6.7	1,710
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5,932	79.8	1,098	14.8	403	5.4	4,999
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	18,717	80.6	3,203	13.8	1,294	5.6	4,035
	London PCT Total	262,132	82.6	37,362	11.8	17,810	5.6	59,779

2003-04

		1 day to under 6 months		6 months to under 12 months		12 months and over		
		Finished in-year admissions	Percentage waited 1 day to under 6 months	Finished in-year admissions	Percentage waited 6 months to 12 months	Finished in-year admissions	Percentage waited more than 12 months	Number of elective waiting list and booked admissions where it is not possible to calculate accurate waiting times
5A9	Barnet PCT	14,901	82.6	2,727	15.1	411	2.3	1,740
5C1	Enfield PCT	10,652	75.5	2,760	19.6	701	5.0	2,815
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	9,020	83.6	1,619	15.0	155	1.4	251
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	10,639	84.5	1,650	13.1	307	2.4	2,030
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	9,089	89.3	1,027	10.1	60	0.6	2,193
5HX	Ealing PCT	19,744	88.0	2,356	10.5	340	1.5	6,068
5HY	Hounslow PCT	8,346	82.3	1,668	16.5	122	1.2	9,091
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	13,062	88.5	1,516	10.3	182	1.2	2,583
5K6	Harrow PCT	9,829	85.6	1,454	12.7	202	1.8	2,080
5K7	Camden PCT	9,928	87.1	1,269	11.1	198	1.7	1,197
5K8	Islington PCT	10,526	88.8	1,155	9.7	179	1.5	1,628
5K9	Croydon PCT	13,982	80.4	2,792	16.1	619	3.6	4,745
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	6,599	89.7	682	9.3	79	1.1	1,784
5LC	Westminster PCT	9,164	88.1	1,089	10.5	149	1.4	1,683
5LD	Lambeth PCT	15,228	85.5	2,166	12.2	417	2.3	2,883
5LE	Southwark PCT	13,261	85.5	1,957	12.6	300	1.9	2,747
5LF	Lewisham PCT	10,442	85.0	1,559	12.7	281	2.3	8,896
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	10,261	83.3	1,786	14.5	275	2.2	1,751
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	6,633	83.6	1,142	14.4	163	2.1	4,229
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	20,648	86.0	2,934	12.2	420	1.7	3,201
5NA	Redbridge PCT	11,262	77.0	2,820	19.3	544	3.7	833
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	8,035	72.3	2,650	23.8	429	3.9	410
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	14,468	85.8	1,872	11.1	528	3.1	2,300
	London PCT total	265,719	84.2	42,650	13.5	7,061	2.2	67,138

2004-05

		1 day to under 6 months		6 months to under 12 months		12 months and over		
		Finished in-year admissions	Percentage waited 1 day to under 6 months	Finished in-year admissions	Percentage waited 6 months to 12 months	Finished in-year admissions	Percentage waited more than 12 months	Number of elective waiting list and booked admissions where it is not possible to calculate accurate waiting times
5A9	Barnet PCT	15,478	84.0	2,715	14.7	227	1.2	1,873
5C1	Enfield PCT	10,356	77.2	2,773	20.7	280	2.1	2,337
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	11,871	89.8	1,238	9.4	115	0.9	336
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	10,026	84.3	1,685	14.2	184	1.5	1,936
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	8,065	89.9	813	9.1	91	1.0	1,753
5HX	Ealing PCT	20,004	88.9	2,172	9.7	330	1.5	5,708
5HY	Hounslow PCT	12,229	90.3	1,241	9.2	72	0.5	3,491
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	13,592	89.1	1,570	10.3	95	0.6	3,352
5K6	Harrow PCT	9,607	86.1	1,450	13.0	102	0.9	2,037
5K7	Camden PCT	9,770	88.0	1,181	10.6	157	1.4	1,221
5K8	Islington PCT	10,195	88.6	1,173	10.2	138	1.2	1,608
5K9	Croydon PCT	13,664	81.9	2,721	16.3	299	1.8	3,905

2004-05

		1 day to under 6 months		*6 months to under 12 months*		*12 months and over*		
		Finished in-year admissions	*Percentage waited 1 day to under 6 months*	*Finished in-year admissions*	*Percentage waited 6 months to 12 months*	*Finished in-year admissions*	*Percentage waited more than 12 months*	*Number of elective waiting list and booked admissions where it is not possible to calculate accurate waiting times*
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	6,466	89.6	698	9.7	55	0.8	1,749
5LC	Westminster PCT	9,164	89.5	967	9.4	105	1.0	1,926
5LD	Lambeth PCT	15,316	88.9	1,743	10.1	168	1.0	2,728
5LE	Southwark PCT	13,496	89.3	1,485	9.8	125	0.8	2,730
5LF	Lewisham PCT	7,239	89.7	740	9.2	87	1.1	11,540
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	10,181	86.6	1,429	12.2	142	1.2	1,670
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	7,856	87.1	1,055	11.7	107	1.2	2,118
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	19,688	87.7	2,556	11.4	217	1.0	2,685
5NA	Redbridge PCT	11,002	81.3	2,265	16.7	260	1.9	1,066
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	7,802	76.4	2,142	21.0	265	2.6	339
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	14,898	88.7	1,654	9.8	246	1.5	2,634
	London PCT total	267,985	86.6	37,466	12.1	3,868	1.3	60,742

2005-06

		1 day to under 6 months		*6 months to under 12 months*		*12 months and over*		
		Finished in-year admissions	*Percentage waited 1 day to under 6 months*	*Finished in-year admissions*	*Percentage waited 6 months to 12 months*	*Finished in-year admissions*	*Percentage waited more than 12 months*	*Number of elective waiting list and booked admissions where it is not possible to calculate accurate waiting times*
5A9	Barnet PCT	16,578	88.3	2,036	10.8	165	0.9	1,880
5C1	Enfield PCT	10,759	79.4	2,576	19.0	210	1.6	2,394
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	13,275	93.2	868	6.1	93	0.7	526
5C9	Haringey Teaching PCT	10,960	86.8	1,483	11.7	185	1.5	2,020
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	9,377	90.3	941	9.1	70	0.7	1,787
5HX	Ealing PCT	20,657	89.5	2,167	9.4	245	1.1	7,099
5HY	Hounslow PCT	8,697	90.6	819	8.5	83	0.9	7,285
5K5	Brent Teaching PCT	15,498	89.9	1,680	9.7	70	0.4	4,085
5K6	Harrow PCT	10,436	87.2	1,469	12.3	65	0.5	2,639
5K7	Camden PCT	10,221	90.4	969	8.6	111	1.0	1,391
5K8	Islington PCT	11,450	91.7	900	7.2	131	1.0	2,320
5K9	Croydon PCT	16,636	88.7	1,899	10.1	219	1.2	4,016
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	6,516	90.5	629	8.7	53	0.7	1,968
5LC	Westminster PCT	9,016	90.0	901	9.0	102	1.0	2,594
5LD	Lambeth PCT	16,447	89.3	1,789	9.7	187	1.0	3,851
5LE	Southwark PCT	14,762	89.4	1,601	9.7	155	0.9	3,561
5LF	Lewisham PCT	7,730	91.2	679	8.0	69	0.8	12,409
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	11,165	88.8	1,270	10.1	138	1.1	2,085
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	7,039	87.5	905	11.2	104	1.3	3,552
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	21,704	88.3	2,648	10.8	225	0.9	3,072
5NA	Redbridge PCT	11,393	87.2	1,501	11.5	173	1.3	1,477
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	8,806	82.6	1,690	15.8	167	1.6	636
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	15,214	91.3	1,295	7.8	152	0.9	3,570
	London PCT total	284,336	88.8	32,715	10.2	3,172	1.0	76,217

Notes:
Finished in-year admissions
A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Time waited (days)
Time waited statistics from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Where there is no recorded entry for decision to admit, or when decision to admit and admission date are the same this creates an invalid waiting time. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension. The time band 'one day to under six months' includes those who waited one to 182 days, the 'six months to under 12 months' includes those who waited 183 to 364 days, the '12 months and over' includes those who waited 365 and over days.
Primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) data quality
PCT and SHA data was added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of Treatment and SHA of Treatment is poor in 1996-97,1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of GP practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
Data Quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of people in *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area were waiting more than (i) three months, (ii) six months and (iii) a year for an NHS treatment for (A) cancer and (B) heart problems in each year since 1997. [122787]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested.

Data on the time patients are waiting for cancer treatment is not collected centrally.

Information is collected on performance against the cancer waiting times standards of a maximum wait of 31 days from diagnosis to first cancer treatment and a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral to first cancer treatment, which were introduced for all cancer patients from December 2005. Data giving performance against these standards for the period July to September 2006 shows that patients at the City Hospitals Sunderland National Health Service Foundation Trust achieved 99.4 per cent. and 96.7 per cent. respectively.

More detailed information and historic statistics for these standards and the cancer two week wait has been placed in the Library and are available online at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/cancerwaits/

Cardiology waiting times at the City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust have been set out in the table shown.

Provider based inpatient cardiology figures, City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

	Month	Total waiting	Number waiting over 13 weeks	Percentage of total waiting list waiting over 13 weeks	Number waiting over 26 weeks	Percentage of total waiting list waiting over 26 weeks
1997	March	6	0	0	0	0
1998	March	1	0	0	0	0
1999	March	10	6	60	2	20.0
2000	March	44	4	9.1	1	2.3
2001	March	85	9	10.6	0	0
2002	March	105	12	11.4	1	1.0
2003	March	78	7	9.0	0	0
2004	March	90	2	2.2	0	0
2005	March	42	1	2.4	0	0
2006	March	184	34	18.5	0	0
2006	December	205	11	5.4	0	0

Source:
Department of Health, KH07

Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Out-patients

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust outpatients have been discharged back to their GP for their follow-up appointment in the last 12 months. [129507]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected centrally.

Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Surgery

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were carried out by private hospitals on behalf of Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust in each of the last five years. [129482]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected centrally.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were carried out by Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust for *(a)* heart surgery, *(b)* ophthalmology surgery, *(c)* knee surgery,

(d) hip replacements and *(e)* urology surgery in each of the last five years; and what the average waiting time was for each category of operation in each year. [129483]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is set out in the following tables.

Count of total procedures for selected groups of procedures for finished consultant episodes carried out in Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals Trust for 2001-02 to 2005-06—NHS Hospitals, England

	Heart surgery	*Ophthalmology surgery*	*Knee surgery*	*Hip replacements*	*Urology surgery*
2001-02	5,510	4,957	1,796	612	6,722
2002-03	5,864	7,633	1,794	581	7,056
2003-04	5,950	7,426	1,582	655	7,770
2004-05	6,363	7,674	1,406	700	7,475
2005-06	6,012	8,088	1,375	749	7,922

Notes:
1. Finished consultant episode (FCE). An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare.
2. All operations count of mentions. These figures represent a count of all mentions of an operation in any of the 12 (4 prior to 2002-03) operation fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set. Therefore, if an operation is mentioned in more than one operation field during an episode, all operations are counted.
3. Main operation. The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, e.g. time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.
4. Secondary procedure. As well as the main operative procedure, there are up to 11 (3 prior to 2002-03) secondary operation fields in HES that show secondary or additional procedures performed on the patient during the episode of care.
5. Data quality. HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for care and social services liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
6. Ungrossed data. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Codes:
Provider code RWA Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals Trust
Heart surgery defined by OPCS 4.2 codes K01 to K71
Ophthalmology surgery defined by OPCS 4.2 codes C01 to C86
Knee surgery defined by OPCS 4.2 codes W06.3, W40, W41, W42, W70, W78.3, W82, W85, W87
Hip replacements defined by OPCS 4.2 codes W37, W38, W39, W46, W47, W48
Urology surgery defined by OPCS 4.2 codes M01 to M83
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

The following table shows the median time waited for finished in-year admission episodes with an admission method of 11 or 12 and a main operation of heart surgery at Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust for 2001-02 to 2005-06.

	Median (days)	*Total episodes*
2001-02	92	2,557
2002-03	100	2,883
2003-04	99	2,817
2004-05	88	3,347
2005-06	85	3,709

Notes:
1. Heart surgery defined by OPCS 4.2 codes K01 to K71
2. Admission methods 11 elective—from waiting list and 12 elective—booked

The following table shows the median time waited for finished in-year admission episodes within an admission method of 11 or 12 and a main operation of ophthalmology surgery at the Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust for 2001-02 to 2005-06.

	Median (days)	*Total episodes*
2001-02	181	2,524
2002-03	160	3,127
2003-04	135	3,107
2004-05	74	3,207
2005-06	49	3,402

Notes:
1. Ophthalmology surgery defined by OPCS 4.2 codes C01 to C86
2. Admission methods 11 elective—from waiting list and 12 elective—booked

The following table shows the median time waited for finished in-ear admission episodes within an admission method of 11 or 12 and a main operation of knee surgery at the Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust for 2001-02 to 2005-06.

	Median (days)	*Total episodes*
2001-02	142	1,076
2002-03	156	1,092
2003-04	192	1,062
2004-05	175	1,186
2005-06	155	1,198

Notes:
1. Knee surgery defined by OPCS 4.2 codes W06.3, W40, W41, W42, W70, W78.3, W82, W85, W87
2. Admission methods 11 elective—from waiting list and 12 elective—booked

The following table shows the median time waited for finished in-year admission episodes within an admission method of 11 or 12 and a main operation of hip replacement at the Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust for 2001-02 to 2005-06.

	Median (days)	*Total episodes*
2001-02	133	365
2002-03	126	342
2003-04	148	396
2004-05	157	359
2005-06	163	360

Notes:
1. Hip replacements defined by OPCS 4.2 codes W37, W38, W39, W46, W47, W48
2. Admission methods 11 elective—from waiting list and 12 elective—booked

The following table shows the median time waited for finished in-year admission episodes within an admission method of 11 or 12 and a main operation of urology surgery at the Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust for 2001-2002 to 2005-2006.

	Median (days)	*Total episodes*
2001-02	74	2,535
2002-03	23	3,727
2003-04	36	3,941
2004-05	42	4,164
2005-06	48	3,747

Notes:
1. Urology surgery defined by OPCS 4.2 codes M01 to M83
2. Admission methods 11 elective—from waiting list and 12 elective—booked
3. Finished in-year admissions. A finished in-year admission is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
4. Main operation. The main operation is the first recorded operation in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, e.g. time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.
5. Time waited (days). Time waited statistics from HES are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.
6. Data quality. HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
7. Ungrossed data. Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Hull and East Yorkshire NHS trust patients had their operation cancelled on the day of the operation in each of the last five years, broken down by operation type. [129506]

Andy Burnham: It is not possible to provide the information in the format requested as numbers of cancelled operations are not collected by type.

However, the number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons for the Hull and East Yorkshire National Health Service Hospitals Trust is set out in the following table.

Last minute cancellations

	Number
2001-02	783
2002-03	877
2003-04	867
2004-05	1,045
2005-06	825
2006-07[1]	429

[1] Data for 2006-07 is for the first three quarters only.

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMC

Human-Animal Hybrid Embryos

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her policy is on the creation of human-animal hybrid embryos; and if she will make a statement. [129518]

Caroline Flint: The Government's policy proposals following their review of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 were published on 14 December 2006 in the Command Paper "Review of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act: Proposals for revised legislation (including establishment of the Regulatory Authority for Tissue and Embryos)". Copies are available in the Library (Cm 6989). The proposals will form the basis for a bill, to be published in draft, for pre-legislative scrutiny.

Revised legislation will clarify the extent to which the law applies to embryos combining human and animal material. We have proposed that the creation of hybrid and chimera embryos in vitro should not be allowed, in general, while at the same time recognising that there may be valuable avenues of scientific research in this area by the provision of a secondary legislative power to makes exceptions subject to licensing.

The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee is in the process of conducting an inquiry into the Government's proposals for the regulation of hybrid and chimera embryos, and the Government will study carefully any recommendations arising.

Incontinence: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the services and support which are available at a local level for children aged between five and 16 years affected by continence problems and their families. [130322]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Paediatric continence services are assessed by local primary care trusts (PCTs), in line with standard six of the national service framework for children. This standard includes a specific section on paediatric incontinence. There is a benchmarking tool to assist PCTs to evaluate their paediatric continence services, benchmark against other PCTs, and share good practice. This is available online at:

www.cgsupport.nhs.uk/PDFs/articles/good_practice_paediatric_continence_services.pdf

We have also funded the voluntary organisation ERIC (Education and Resources for Improving Childhood Continence) to a maximum of £90,000 over the three years 2006-07 to 2008-09 for their project on the implementation of national integrated continence services.

Independent Sector

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what proportion of NHS expenditure she estimates went to the independent sector from *(a)* central funds and *(b)* primary care trust allocations in each of the last five years. [129891]

Andy Burnham: Information on expenditure on the independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) programme from central budgets is shown in the table.

	ISTC programme expenditure (£ million)[1]	*Total NHS expenditure (£ million)*	*ISTC expenditure as a percentage of total NHS spend*
2003-04	0.4	64,183	—
2004-05	84.7	69,679	0.12
2005-06	113.7	75,830	0.15

[1] Expenditure on locally procured independent sector treatment providers is not separately identified in the annual financial returns of national health service trusts, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities.

Note:

The first ISTC commenced services in 2003. The above figures include central funding provided for the ISTCs, the general supplementary procurement and pathfinder contracts.

NHS spend on independent healthcare providers will be determined by the choices made by patients and those who commission services locally on their behalf.

Insulin

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has submitted a request to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to undertake a comparison of the different types of insulin in its future work programme. [129918]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1013W.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 546W, on insulin, (1) what adverse effects are associated with the use of *(a)* animal insulins, *(b)* synthetic human insulins and *(c)* analogue insulins; what the incidence is of each effect; and if she will make a statement; [130721]

(2) what the evidential basis is for the assessment that analogue insulins are *(a)* safe, *(b)* effective and *(c)* cost-effective. [130722]

Caroline Flint: Detailed information regarding the adverse effects known or suspected to be associated with a medicine is provided in the summary of product characteristics (the product information for prescribers) and the patient information leaflet.

Generally the side effects observed are broadly similar for all types of insulins with the most commonly observed side effects being hypoglycaemia, visual disturbance and injection site reactions. Tables which summarise the current knowledge of frequencies of adverse reactions with different insulins have been placed in the Library. These provide a breakdown of the types of adverse effects and their frequencies, where known. The tables contain the information relating to animal, human and analogue insulins and are separated by the classification of the medicine into the following four groups: rapid; intermediate; long and biphasic action. It is important to note that a report of an adverse reaction does not necessarily mean that the drug caused it and a number of the adverse reactions reported by patients treated with insulin may be due to the underlying diabetes.

There is less information available on the frequency of side effects for some of the older products. Guidelines for the investigation of the safety and efficacy of new medicinal products have developed over the years and the evidence base available for older products tends to be much less than that available for newer products such as the insulin analogues.

The following aspects of the product are evaluated in detail as the evidential basis for the assessment of safety and efficacy of the analogue insulins:

Manufacturing data, including biological purity, stability and viral removal processes;

Laboratory testing of the product activity such as its binding to the relevant tissues;

Testing on animals for safety and activity;

Clinical trials in healthy volunteers and/or patient volunteers to;

Establish the mechanism of action;

Study distribution of the product within human body;

Evaluate safety in sufficient numbers of volunteers to reflect safety issues that would be usually expected in clinical practice; and

Evaluate efficacy in sufficient number of volunteers to demonstrate that the product in question would be clinically useful as intended.

If it is considered that benefit versus risk profile of the product is positive, on the basis of aforementioned evaluation, a recommendation to license the product would normally be made.

A summary of the available data on safety and effectiveness submitted in support of the licence applications for many of the insulin analogues is made publicly available in the form of a European Public Assessment Report available on the website of the European Medicines Agency (www.emea.europa.eu).

Assessing the cost-effectiveness of a treatment is the responsibility of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). The Appraisal Committee of NICE are asked to take account of the overall resources available to the national health service. Decisions on the cost-effectives of a treatment must include judgments on the implications for other patient groups.

Junior Doctors: Career Structure

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is responsible for the implementation of the modernising programme for junior doctors. [124718]

Caroline Flint: The four United Kingdom Health Departments are responsible for the overall implementation of modernising medical careers. The Health Departments co-ordinate action through a United Kingdom modernising medical careers strategy group which includes members from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the General Medical Council, the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB) and national health service employers. Each country also has a dedicated implementation team.

The Royal Colleges are directly responsible for developing the new competency-based curricula which are approved by PMETB. The Royal Colleges also work closely with postgraduate deans over the development of person specifications for the recruitment process and the postgraduate deans themselves oversee selection into posts.

The number of training opportunities available in 2007 was based on local discussions between local NHS employers, strategic health authorities and postgraduate deans.

Maternity Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1291W, on maternity services, what information is available on the number of maternity units in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2001. [129887]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data derived from Hospital Episode Statistics show that for 1997 there were 213 hospital trusts providing maternity services and 192 in 2001. Most trusts have one principal hospital site with delivery facilities and the majority of deliveries are reported through that main hospital trust. Any decrease in the number of units is likely to be due to reconfiguration of national health service trusts without any decrease in the number of hospitals, wards and birthing centres offering services.

Maternity Services: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment her Department has made of the impact of proposed changes to midwifery services in Leeds on *(a)* the number and frequency of home visits and *(b)* the provision of post-natal care; [129135]

(2) what assessment she has made of the impact of proposed changes to midwifery services in Leeds on the distances midwifery staff will have to travel in the course of their duties; and what provision has been made for the effect on costs of such travel; [129136]

(3) what consultation was undertaken on proposed changes to midwifery provision in Leeds with *(a)* midwifery staff and *(b)* representatives of the Leeds Primary Care Trust. [129137]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* The NHS Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority reports that the proposed changes were formulated in November 2006 and consultation involving the Royal College of Midwives, human resources and local staff side commenced in December 2006. Staff have been invited to raise their concerns at one to one meetings. The head of midwifery works in close collaboration with the primary care commissioners, midwifery educationalists, and the health visiting lead, who are aware of the proposed changes and welcome the modernisation schedule for maternity services taking shape. Focus groups have also been held with women to better understand their expectations of the service.

Midwives will continue to be available to provide home visits where appropriate. The provision of home visits will be based on an assessment of risk and need.

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals National Health Service Trust may require staff to change their work base for operational reasons. Eligibility for reimbursement of excess travel does not normally apply in these circumstances under the current agenda for change terms and conditions for staff employed in the NHS.

Mental Health Services: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the 2006 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services mapping data to be released. [130272]

Caroline Flint: Data will be available online in April at www.camhsmapping.org.uk. The 2006 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Mapping report is scheduled to be published in July.

Migraine

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has conducted into *(a)* the causes of and *(b)* the appropriate treatment for migraine attacks. [102528]

Caroline Flint: The main agency through which the Government support medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Innovation.

The MRC is not currently funding research specifically relating to migraine. However, a strategic grant award to Dr. Leone Ridsdale, King's College, London for a prospective study on diagnostic management referral and one year outcome for patients with headache in primary care has recently been completed. The aim of this study was to provide evidence about the accuracy of diagnosis, the prognosis, reasons for referral, and the economic costs for patients and society.

The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the NHS and through its health technology assessment programme has supported a pragmatic, randomised trial into the use of acupuncture for migraine and headache in primary care; and is planning a randomised placebo controlled trial of propranolol and Pizotifen in preventing migraine in children.

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual projects, including a number concerned with migraine, are available on the national research register at:

www.dh.gov.uk/research.

Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust: Taxis

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* Milton Keynes primary care trust and *(b)* Milton Keynes hospital spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [131208]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is for the local health economy to determine how to use its allocated resources.

NHS Budget

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what proportion of the NHS budget has been paid to non-NHS providers in each financial year since 1997-98 in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms. [106124]

Andy Burnham: The information is shown in the table.

Non-NHS bodies include local authorities, other statutory bodies and the independent sector.

	Total cash terms (£ million)	Total real terms (£ million)	As a proportion of NHS expenditure (percentage)
1997-98	1,108.2	1,337.8	3.20
1998-99	1,230.4	1,448.5	3.36
1999-2000	1,301.2	1,501.5	3.24
2000-01	1,549.2	1,782.8	3.53
2001-02	1,793.0	1,993.0	3.66
2002-03	2,239.3	2,414.4	4.14
2003-04	3,315.9	3,471.9	5.26
2004-05	3,681.0	3,749.7	5.31
2005-06	4,435.1	4,435.1	5.81

Notes:
1. Figures include £15.0 million of spending in 2004-05 and £19.6 million in 2005-06 by NHS foundation trusts.
2. HM Treasury Gross Domestic Product Deflator used to provide the real terms figures with 2005-06 as the base year.
3. Figures for 2005-06 are provisional.

Source:
Annual financial returns for primary care trusts, strategic health authorities and NHS trusts for 1997-98 to 2005-06. Review and consolidated accounts of NHS foundation trusts 2005-06.

NHS Treatment Centres: Personal Records

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether data obtained in processing NHS treatment at a private sector treatment centre may be used for marketing purposes by the company owning the centre. [131054]

Andy Burnham: Currently wave 1 independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) providers do not market their services to national health service patients or referrers.

Choice is a key part of health reform. Going forward, NHS providers, independent and public sector, should be providing patients with information which enables them to make an informed decision about their health care options. This will include information gathered from the treatment of NHS patients.

The marketing schedule for phase 2 ISTC contracts states that marketing brochures produced by the provider for patients of the facilities must include (among other things) patient and provider statistics consistent with those contained in the NHS choice booklets, to the extent that they are relevant to the ISTC programme. These include details of in-patient waiting times, cancelled operations, out-patient waiting times, methicillin resistant *staphylococcus aureus* infection rates and the results of patient satisfaction surveys.

Marketing brochures produced for Referring Health Service Bodies must include all the above, and in addition should cover complication rates and length of stay/day case rates.

The schedule also provides that marketing material should not include information relating to private health care services or products and services offered by the IS provider, or a third party, which do not relate to the services being provided under the ISTC agreement with the authority.

NHS: Complaints

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent representations she has received on the NHS complaints procedure; and if she will make a statement; [128717]

(2) what plans she has to reform the NHS complaints procedure to make it easier for users of the NHS to make a complaint. [128721]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We received representation on the national health service complaints procedure in a joint letter in October 2006 from the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) and the Local Government Ombudsman, providing feedback which welcomes our commitment to establish integrated health and social care complaints arrangements, gives their views on the principles they consider should govern the development and delivery of the new integrated approach, and summarises what they believe needs to be in place to make an effective integrated approach a reality.

The White Paper "Our health, our care, our say" published in January 2006, signals our commitment to

"develop by 2009 a comprehensive single complaints system across health and social care [that will] focus on resolving complaints locally with a more personal and comprehensive approach to handling complaints",

in response to people's wishes for easy and effective ways of complaining.

We intend to conduct a consultation exercise very shortly on reform of the complaints arrangements across health and social care. In so doing we will take account of the recommendations by the PHSO and Local Government Ombudsman in developing a new complaints system, which we agree should be based on the following principles:

open and easy to access—flexible about the ways people could complain and with effective information and support for people wishing to do so, and specialist advocacy as appropriate;

fair—emphasising early resolution so minimising the strain and distress for all those involved; investigation should be robust, effective and comprehensive at this stage;

responsive—providing appropriate, tailored and proportionate response and redress; having proper regard to the complainant's legitimate interests; and

providing an opportunity for learning and developing—ensuring complaints are viewed as a positive opportunity to learn from patients' experiences and views to drive continual improvement in services.

We have accepted a recommendation of the Shipman Inquiry (Fifth Report) that there should be a statutory recognition of the importance of the proper investigation of complaints to the processes of organisational learning and of monitoring the quality of care. Additionally a fair and responsive system must address the specific needs of vulnerable people, such as those with learning difficulties, mental health problems and communication difficulties.

Throughout the consultation process we will maintain ongoing communication and feedback from key stakeholders, such as the ombudsman, the Local Government Ombudsman, the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection and Monitor, the regulator for foundation trusts. We will consult widely on the proposals across all health and social care communities, in the public and private sectors, and with patient and user representatives. As well as written responses we intend to conduct events in London and around the country to encourage thorough debate and feedback.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* funding packages and *(b)* joint-funding packages were completed by each primary care trust or predecessor bodies for patients whose complex needs cost (i) £100,000 to £249,999, (ii) £250,000 to £499,999 and (iii) more than £500,000 per annum in each of the last three years. [127569]

Andy Burnham: Cost data collected from the national health service do not distinguish between the costs of individual patients.

We are therefore unable to separately identify the number of patients whose complex needs cost £100,000 to £249,999, £250,000 to £499,999 and more than £500,000 per annum in each of the last three years.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what purpose funds from the Centrally Funded Initiatives Services and Special Allocation (CFISSA) described in the 2006 Department of Health Annual Report as CFISSA budgets issued with primary care trust allocations were intended; and how they differ from other primary care trust revenue allocations. [130341]

Andy Burnham: The purpose and value of the centrally funded initiatives services and special allocations (CFISSA) funds issued with primary care trust (PCT) initial allocations are in the following table. These allocations differ from other CFISSA allocations only in that they are incorporated into PCT initial resource limits and are allocated at the start of the financial year. Other funds issued to the national health service from the CFISSA programme are made as in year allocation adjustments.

2005-06 centrally funded initiatives services and special allocations programme - allocations included with PCT initial resource limits

	£000
Primary medical services resource limit adjustment	4,517,190
General medical services cash limited rebasing	-702,554
Pension indexation: PCT contribution	1,333,343
NHS funded nursing care	584,000
Palliative care	50,000
Pensions indexation adjustment for personal medical services practice staff	33,171
Neo natal intensive care	20,709
Revascularisation	16,901
Dangerous people with serious personality disorders	12,286
Health Protection Agency	9,674
Dentistry	3,907
Health Protection Agency	2,315
Medium secure services for deaf people	1,394
Non medical education and training	870
Improving services for people with multiple sclerosis	758
Health Protection Agency	610
Pensions indexation	500
Regional directors of public health support	437
Prison healthcare	90
Defibrillator funding to PCTs	66
PRION	52
Multiple Sclerosis service improvements	42
NHS funded nursing care—short-term respite care adjustment	4
National specialist commissioning—pancreatic transplantation	-2,473
Cancer registries	-8,770
National specialist commissioning—children and adolescent mental health services	-12,109
Old long stay	-44,934
Total	5,817,479

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which programmes have been funded by her Department's Centrally Funded Initiatives and Services and Special Allocations (CFISSA) budget so far in 2006-07 financial year; what the value was of each of those programmes; what the total expenditure on the CFISSA budget was in each year since 1997-98; and what the anticipated expenditure on the CFISSA budget is expected to be in 2007-08. [130410]

Andy Burnham: Tables are available in the Library providing:

(a) listings of all allocations by budget title and value to National Health Service organisations from 1997-98 to 2005-06;

(b) total expenditure of the centrally funded, initiatives services and special allocations (CFISSA) programme from 1997-98 to 2005-06;

(c) special allocations issued with initial allocations from 1997-98 to 2005-06; and

(d) special allocations and associated budgets issued to NHS organisations as additional allocations (and which are included in the tables described in (a) and (b) above).

Full year 2006-07 information and anticipated expenditure in 2007-08 on centrally funded initiatives services and special allocations is not yet available. This information will be contained within the 2006-07 Departmental Report that has an estimated publishing date of May 2007.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 28 March 2007, on changes to the NHS resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) regime, why the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust was omitted from the list of trusts receiving the reversal of RAB income deductions. [131372]

Andy Burnham: The reversals set out in the written ministerial statement of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 96-98WS, are for income deductions applied to NHS trusts in 2006-07 as a result of deficits incurred during 2005-06. No such income deduction was made to Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust as the trust's financial position reported in the 2005-06 final accounts was a surplus of £112,000.

Under the new rules, NHS trusts that had income deductions made in years prior to 2006-07 will be able to agree a disregard for these deductions in the calculation of their statutory breakeven duty. This means that they will no longer have to generate a surplus to recover any part of their cumulative deficit that arose solely from the application of resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) income deductions.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust will therefore need to agree with its auditors the impact on its breakeven duty of any RAB income deductions applied in 2005-06 and earlier years. The breakeven note would then be adjusted to exclude these in the 2006-07 final accounts.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of local improvement finance trusts in the *(a)* commissioning, *(b)* financing and *(c)* building of local primary care health facilities. [131392]

Andy Burnham: The NHS Plan (2000) introduced national health service local improvement finance trusts (LIFT) as a way of supporting the delivery of more investment in primary care premises. LIFT is providing modern integrated super surgeries, often in the heart of deprived communities. As of 31 March 2007, it has delivered 115 new buildings open to patients with another 74 under construction, supported by over £1.2 billion of investment. The NAO report on LIFT, Innovation in the NHS, noted that LIFT is well designed and offered advantages over other forms of procurement.

Information is not held centrally to allow for an assessment on the effectiveness of the buildings commissioning period for each scheme. It is for PCTs to manage the commissioning of their new facilities.

Information is not held centrally to allow for an assessment of effectiveness of the financing of each individual scheme. However, as part of the business case approval for each scheme financing terms are assessed, with the support of expert financial advice. The Department is also assembling benchmarking data to support this analysis in current and future LIFTs.

The Department as part of its Better Healthcare Buildings policy initiative is working closely with the commission for architecture and the built environment who have undertaken a detailed design quality survey of a representational cross section of primary care buildings procured under the LIFT initiative. They are preparing findings, which the Department will learn from and implement policy aimed at continually raising the standards of LIFT buildings.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the NHS accounts for the financial year 2006-07 will be published. [131740]

Andy Burnham: Individual national health service accounts must, by statute, be published locally on or before 30 September 2007. The Department expects that this date will be met or bettered by all NHS bodies.

The Department plans to submit draft summarised accounts that consolidate NHS bodies' accounts to the National Audit Office for review by 20 August 2007. The date of publication is a matter for the Comptroller and Auditor General and depends on the date of completion of the audit process.

NHS: ICT

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many trusts she expects to meet the Patient Administration System implementation deadline of 23 April; and if she will make a statement. [131739]

Caroline Flint: The information is in the table.

Patient administration systems (PAS) implemented in:	*Deployments to date*	*Additional deployments planned to be completed by 23 April 2007*
Acute Trusts	19	4
Primary Care Trusts	94	5
Primary Care Trusts (PAS with additional clinical functionality)	89	0
Mental Health Trusts	17	0
Total	219	9

The national health service is in the process of moving from being an organisation with fragmented or incomplete systems, with physical processing and storage of records on paper, to a position where national systems are fully integrated, record keeping is digital, and patients have unprecedented access to their personal health records. PAS systems that are compliant with other applications delivered through the national programme for information technology are a key element of this process.

The national programme is providing essential services to support patient care and the smooth running of the NHS, without which it could already not properly function. Thousands of national and local systems have already been successfully deployed on time, including widespread coverage of community PAS where none existed previously. Almost two thirds of hospitals now have digital X-rays and scans, and at the heart of the programme is the NHS care records service which will in due course provide a lifelong electronic personal health record for NHS patients in England.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirement her Department makes of NHS Supply Chain *(a)* to consider and *(b)* to implement the recommendations on medical devices of the Centre for Evidence-Based Purchasing. [129596]

Andy Burnham: The agreement with DHL requires NHS Supply Chain to comply with government policies on request. NHS Supply Chain is already committed to liaise closely with the Centre for Evidence-based Purchasing either directly or through the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency.

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will issue guidance on best practice on the composition of specialised clinical assessment groups within NHS Supply Chain. [129597]

Andy Burnham: NHS Supply Chain has no current plans to release guidance on best practise for the composition of specialised clinical assessment groups.

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms her Department has in place to assess whether NHS Supply Chain's procurement process has improved access to medical technologies for patients; and if she will make a statement. [129598]

Andy Burnham: The Department has mechanisms in place to monitor the overall performance of NHS Supply Chain.

The establishment of clinical councils, to help determine what products the national health service requires, will enable clinicians or other trust representatives to raise any failing in trust's access to medical technologies for their patients.

There is a process whereby issues can be escalated to the NHS BSA (Supply Chain Management Division), and ultimately a joint board chaired by the Department's Commercial Director General.

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms her Department has in place to assess whether NHS Supply Chain's procurement process will produce long-term savings of *(a)* patient bed days, *(b)* nursing time and *(c)* repeat procedures; and if she will make a statement. [129599]

Andy Burnham: The contract with NHS Supply Chain will measure savings based on the reduction to buy price for the national health service.

NHS: Publications

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was for the publication and distribution, including by Braille, audio and large print editions, of 'Days out in the NHS: Listening to the NHS Staff', published by her Department on 31 January. [121567]

Andy Burnham: The total cost was £2,905. This was a web-only publication and therefore no printing or distribution costs. No Braille, audio or large-print versions have been produced.

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust: Maternity Services

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many maternity beds were provided by the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust in each of the last three years. [129335]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the table. Beds data is collected annually and 2006-07 figures will not be available until August 2007.

Average daily number of maternity beds, United Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals National Health Service Trust 2003-04 to 2005-06

	Number of beds
2003-04	102
2004-05	108
2005-06	115

Source: Department of Health dataset KH03.

Nurses: Pay

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the starting pay was for nurses at today's prices in each of the last 20 years. [125389]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* The starting pay for a newly qualified nurse at 2006-07 prices in each of the last 20 years is set out in the following table.

	Starting pay cash[1, 2]	*£ Starting pay real terms*[3]
1987-88	7,300	13,955
1988-89	8,025	14,341
1989-90	8,565	14,285
1990-91	9,335	14,436
1991-92	10,230	14,908
1992-93	10,820	15,276
1993-94	10,980	15,108
1994-95	11,320	15,344
1995-96[4]	11,605	15,266
1996-97	11,895	15,138
1997-98	12,385	15,316
1998-99	12,855	15,504
1999-00	14,400	17,023
2000-01	14,890	17,358
2001-02	15,445	17,587
2002-03	16,005	17,678
2003-04	16,525	17,725
2004-05[5]	18,114	18,909
2005-06	18,698	19,155
2006-07	19,166	19,166

[1] Starting pay for a newly qualified nurse is normally the minimum of the grade applicable to basic grade qualified nurses.
[2] The grades applicable to basic grade qualified nurses in the years set out in the table are as follows:- 1977-78 to 1987-88 Staff Nurse 1988-89 to 2003-04 D Grade 2004-05 to 2006-07 Agenda for Change Band 5 Figures given are for the minimum of these grades in the year in question, including any staged increases.
[3] Real terms in 2006-07 prices.
[4] The starting pay given for 1995-96 is the rate for non-trust staff.
[5] The starting pay given for 2004-05 is the minimum of the Agenda for Change Band 5 scale at the effective date of implementation of Agenda for Change on 1 October 2004.

Obesity: Surgery

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average wait for gastric bypass surgery was in each hospital trust in the last period for which figures are available. [128823]

Caroline Flint: The figures are shown in the table.

Median time waited for finished admission episodes with an elective waiting list or booked admission and a main operation of gastric bypass surgery by treatment provider for 2005-06

NHS Hospitals, England Method of Admission 11 Elective - from waiting list and 12 Elective—booked

Gastric Bypass Surgery defined by OPCS4.2 Codes: G01.2, G01.3, G27.1, G27.2, G27.3, G27.4, G27.5, G27.8, G27.9, G28.1, G28.2, G28.3, G28.8, G28.9, G31.1, G31.2, G31.3, G31.4, G31.8, G31.9, G31.0, G32.1, G32.2, G32.3, G32.8, G32.9, G32.0, G33.1, G33.2, G33.3, G33.8, G33.9, G33.0

Provider code	*Provider description*	*Median waiting time (days)*	*Total episodes*
RA2	Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	13	8
RA3	Weston Area Health NHS Trust	—	—
RA7	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	14	25
RA9	South Devon Health Care NHS Trust	—	—
RAE	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	11	18

Median time waited for finished admission episodes with an elective waiting list or booked admission and a main operation of gastric bypass surgery by treatment provider for 2005-06

NHS Hospitals, England Method of Admission 11 Elective - from waiting list and 12 Elective—booked

Gastric Bypass Surgery defined by OPCS4.2 Codes: G01.2, G01.3, G27.1, G27.2, G27.3, G27.4, G27.5, G27.8, G27.9, G28.1, G28.2, G28.3, G28.8, G28.9, G31.1, G31.2, G31.3, G31.4, G31.8, G31.9, G31.0, G32.1, G32.2, G32.3, G32.8, G32.9, G32.0, G33.1, G33.2, G33.3, G33.8, G33.9, G33.0

Provider code	Provider description	Median waiting time (days)	Total episodes
RAJ	Southend Hospital NHS Trust	—	—
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	13	9
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	—	—
RBA	Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust	86	36
RBD	West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RBK	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	132	25
RBL	Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	5	18
RBN	St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	15	8
RBQ	The Cardiothoracic Centre—Liverpool NHS Trust	—	—
RBS	Royal Liverpool Children's NHS Trust	—	—
RBT	The Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RC1	Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	—	—
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	—	—
RC9	Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust	85	17
RCB	York Hospitals NHS Trust	264	44
RCC	Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust	—	—
RCD	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	—	—
RCF	Airedale NHS Trust	—	—
RCS	Nottingham City Hospital NHS Trust	10	33
RCX	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	—	—
RD1	Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	18	7
RD3	Poole Hospital NHS Trust	—	—
RD7	Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	17	6
RDD	Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	19	11
RDE	Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	—	—
RDU	Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	16	14
RDZ	Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	—	—
REF	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	25	11
REM	Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust	34	14
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	26	11
RFF	Barnsley District General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	13	6
RFK	Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RFR	The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	—	—
RFS	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	6	8
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	15	6
RG3-X	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	15	6
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	24	6

Median time waited for finished admission episodes with an elective waiting list or booked admission and a main operation of gastric bypass surgery by treatment provider for 2005-06

NHS Hospitals, England Method of Admission 11 Elective - from waiting list and 12 Elective—booked

Gastric Bypass Surgery defined by OPCS4.2 Codes: G01.2, G01.3, G27.1, G27.2, G27.3, G27.4, G27.5, G27.8, G27.9, G28.1, G28.2, G28.3, G28.8, G28.9, G31.1, G31.2, G31.3, G31.4, G31.8, G31.9, G31.0, G32.1, G32.2, G32.3, G32.8, G32.9, G32.0, G33.1, G33.2, G33.3, G33.8, G33.9, G33.0

Provider code	Provider description	Median waiting time (days)	Total episodes
RGN	Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	28	14
RGP	James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust	—	—
RGQ	Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	25	20
RGT	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	11	18
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	—	—
RH8	Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	19	13
RHM	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	17	17
RHQ	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	214	129
RHU	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	12	21
RHW	Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	19	40
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	—	—
RJ5	St. Mary's NHS Trust	10	11
RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	160	39
RJC	South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RJD-X	Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RJE	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	14	25
RJF	Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RJL-X	Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	11	9
RJN	East Cheshire NHS Trust	—	—
RJR	Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	—	—
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	236	29
RK5	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RK9	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	13	20
RKB	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	14	24
RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	—	—
RL4	The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	15	8
RLN	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	—	—
RLQ	Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	13	6
RM1	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust	13	11
RM2	South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust	19	9
RM3	Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	12	11
RMC	Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RMP	Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust	9	11
RN1-X	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	—	—
RN3	Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	—	—
RN5-X	North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RN7	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	—	—

Median time waited for finished admission episodes with an elective waiting list or booked admission and a main operation of gastric bypass surgery by treatment provider for 2005-06

NHS Hospitals, England Method of Admission 11 Elective - from waiting list and 12 Elective - booked

Gastric Bypass Surgery defined by OPCS4.2 Codes: G01.2, G01.3, G27.1, G27.2, G27.3, G27.4, G27.5, G27.8, G27.9, G28.1, G28.2, G28.3, G28.8, G28.9, G31.1, G31.2, G31.3, G31.4, G31.8, G31.9, G31.0, G32.1, G32.2, G32.3, G32.8, G32.9, G32.0, G33.1, G33.2, G33.3, G33.8, G33.9, G33.0

Provider code	Provider description	Median waiting time (days)	Total episodes
RNA	Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	13	9
RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	6	29
RNL	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	5	13
RNQ	Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	—	—
RNS	Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	23	8
RNZ	Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust	39	6
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	—	—
RP5	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	9	12
RPL	Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RPR	Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	—	—
RPY	The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	14	26
RQ3	Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust	—	—
RQ6	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	4	27
RQ8	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	11	10
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	161	10
RQN	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	8	23
RQW	The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	—	—
RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	72	21
RR1	Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	7	19
RR2	Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Trust	—	—
RR7	Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	—	—
RR8	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	116	77
RRF	Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust	9	6
RRK	University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	14	47
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	13	24
RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	—	—
RTD	The Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust	6	52
RTE	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	14	10
RTF	Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust	—	—
RTG	Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	15	15
RTH	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	13	20
RTK	Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RTP	Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	—	—

Median time waited for finished admission episodes with an elective waiting list or booked admission and a main operation of gastric bypass surgery by treatment provider for 2005-06

NHS Hospitals, England Method of Admission 11 Elective - from waiting list and 12 Elective - booked

Gastric Bypass Surgery defined by OPCS4.2 Codes: G01.2, G01.3, G27.1, G27.2, G27.3, G27.4, G27.5, G27.8, G27.9, G28.1, G28.2, G28.3, G28.8, G28.9, G31.1, G31.2, G31.3, G31.4, G31.8, G31.9, G31.0, G32.1, G32.2, G32.3, G32.8, G32.9, G32.0, G33.1, G33.2, G33.3, G33.8, G33.9, G33.0

Provider code	Provider description	Median waiting time (days)	Total episodes
RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	16	19
RTX	University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	10	9
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	12	11
RVJ	North Bristol NHS Trust	—	—
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	9	8
RW	East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	14	7
RVW	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	13	8
RVY	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	—	—
RW3	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	23	10
RW6	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	10	28
RWA	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	181	103
RWD	United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	24	18
RWE	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	29	64
RWF	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	40	10
RWG	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	19	12
RWH	East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	—	—
RWJ	Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	16	8
RWP-X	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	14	11
RWW	North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	28	9
RWY	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust	22	9
RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RXF-X	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	10	22
RXH	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	27	10
RXL	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust	20	11
RXN	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0	7
RXP	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
RXQ	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	14	7
RXR	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	9	16

Median time waited for finished admission episodes with an elective waiting list or booked admission and a main operation of gastric bypass surgery by treatment provider for 2005-06

NHS Hospitals, England Method of Admission 11 Elective - from waiting list and 12 Elective—booked

Gastric Bypass Surgery defined by OPCS4.2 Codes: G01.2, G01.3, G27.1, G27.2, G27.3, G27.4, G27.5, G27.8, G27.9, G28.1, G28.2, G28.3, G28.8, G28.9, G31.1, G31.2, G31.3, G31.4, G31.8, G31.9, G31.0, G32.1, G32.2, G32.3, G32.8, G32.9, G32.0, G33.1, G33.2, G33.3, G33.8, G33.9, G33.0

Provider code	*Provider description*	*Median waiting time (days)*	*Total episodes*
RXW	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	14	12

Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Main Operation
The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, e.g. time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.
Time Waited (days)
Time waited statistics from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.
Data Quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Low Numbers
Due to reasons of confidentiality, episodes figures between 1 and 5 and their corresponding waiting times have been suppressed and replaced with "—".
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health & Social Care.

Out-patients: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of Eastbourne Downs NHS Primary Care Trust outpatients have been discharged back to their GP for their follow-up appointment in the last 12 months. [130972]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Patients: Surveys

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was of the recent GP patient survey sent by post to 5 million patients carried out by MORI. [131431]

Andy Burnham: The 2006-07 general practitioner patient survey was launched in January 2007. The final date for the return of patient questionnaires was 5 April. The total cost will depend upon the survey results which will be made available when the questionnaires are returned and analysed. It is not therefore possible to give a final figure for the total cost until this is complete. The budgeted cost, however, for administration of the survey in 2006-07 is £11 million.

Pharmacy

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she has met *(a)* pharmacists and *(b)* pharmaceutical wholesalers to discuss the supply network for British pharmaceuticals since Pfizer began distributing their products through a single company; [131601]

(2) whether she has received any representations on the operation of Pfizer's new distribution model for pharmaceuticals; [131602]

(3) whether she has met *(a)* Pfizer and *(b)* UniChem to discuss the operation of their pharmaceutical distribution network; [131603]

(4) what assessment she has made of the extent to which the operation of Pfizer's new distribution model for pharmaceuticals meets the guarantees provided to her Department in October 2006. [131787]

Caroline Flint: Ministers have had no meetings with representatives of Pfizer, UniChem, pharmacists or the pharmaceutical wholesale industry, since the launch of Pfizer's new distribution arrangements on 5 March, to discuss these new arrangements.

Since the launch of the new arrangements, the Department has received eight written representations, as of 2 April, not including the four questions asked by the hon. Member. Officials in the Department continue to monitor the operation of the new system.

Pregnancy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average age of primagravidas in England was in each of the last five years. [129520]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not available in the format requested. However, data derived from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) shows the age at which it is most common for women to give birth for the first time over the past five years. This is shown in the table as follows.

1 April to 31 March:	*Age in years*
2001-02	30
2002-03	30
2003-04	29
2004-05	30
2005-06	30

Primary Care Trusts: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was received by each primary care trust per head of population in the most recent year for which figures are available listed in descending order. [130730]

Andy Burnham: 2007-08 revenue allocations were announced in February 2005 for 303 primary care trusts (PCTs). The following table shows allocations per head of population for 152 PCTs following the reduction in their number on 1 October 2006.

2007-08 revenue allocations per head of population in descending order

PCT	2007-08 allocation per head (£)
Islington PCT	1,956
Tower Hamlets PCT	1,843
Southwark PCT	1,825
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	1,818
Knowsley PCT	1,816
Lambeth PCT	1,812
Liverpool PCT	1,788
Lewisham PCT	1,743
Camden PCT	1,727
Manchester PCT	1,723
Salford PCT	1,717
Newham PCT	1,714
South Tyneside PCT	1,639
Blackpool PCT	1,636
Brent Teaching PCT	1,632
Sunderland Teaching PCT	1,632
Gateshead PCT	1,629
Middlesbrough PCT	1,626
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1,626
Newcastle PCT	1,615
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	1,601
Hartlepool PCT	1,600
Wirral PCT	1,595
Haringey Teaching PCT	1,595
Halton and St. Helens PCT	1,586
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	1,586
Barking and Dagenham PCT	1,581
County Durham PCT	1,575
Hastings and Rother PCT	1,571
Westminster PCT	1,564
Stoke On Trent PCT	1,559
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,558
Sefton PCT	1,556
Sandwell PCT	1,554
Wandsworth PCT	1,538
Barnsley PCT	1,537
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	1,536
Waltham Forest PCT	1,531
Walsall Teaching PCT	1,526
Ealing PCT	1,516
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	1,514
Sheffield PCT	1,512
Hull PCT	1,511
Wolverhampton City PCT	1,511
Oldham PCT	1,511
Birmingham East and North PCT	1,509
Darlington PCT	1,508
Tameside and Glossop PCT	1,504
Doncaster PCT	1,499
North Tyneside PCT	1,497
Peterborough PCT	1,494
East Lancashire PCT -	1,490
South Birmingham PCT	1,489
Nottingham City PCT	1,483
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	1,483
Rotherham PCT	1,460
Hounslow PCT	1,477
Coventry Teaching PCT	1,466
Torbay Care Trust	1,464
Wakefield District PCT	1,464
Bolton PCT	1,457
Brighton and Hove City PCT	1,449
Bradford and Airedale PCT	1,444

2007-08 revenue allocations per head of population in descending order

PCT	2007-08 allocation per head (£)
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	1,441
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	1,440
Enfield PCT	1,432
Leeds PCT	1,422
North East Lincolnshire PCT	1,417
Leicester City PCT	1,416
Calderdale PCT	1,415
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1,407
North Lancashire PCT	1,406
Trafford PCT	1,405
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	1,405
Northumberland Care Trust	1,404
Plymouth Teaching PCT	1,402
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,401
Bristol PCT	1,398
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	1,396
Harrow PCT	1,396
Cumbria PCT	1,389
Redbridge PCT	1,384
Havering PCT	1,384
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	1,382
Central Lancashire PCT	1,374
Barnet PCT	1,374
North East Essex PCT	1,373
North Staffordshire PCT	1,365
Kirklees PCT	1,364
Western Cheshire PCT	1,363
Bury PCT	1,362
Croydon PCT	1,359
Luton PCT	1,359
Hillingdon PCT	1,358
Stockport PCT	1,356
Southampton City PCT	1,353
Dudley PCT	1,349
Bassetlaw PCT	1,348
Sutton and Merton PCT	1,347
North Tees PCT	1,344
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1,339
Warrington PCT	1,339
Bexley Care Trust	1,339
South West Essex PCT	1,337
North Lincolnshire PCT	1,337
West Sussex PCT	1,336
Derbyshire County PCT	1,336
South East Essex PCT	1,334
Nottinghamshire County PCT	1,329
Derby City PCT	1,327
Dorset PCT	1,319
Devon PCT	1,318
West Essex PCT	1,315
Bromley PCT	1,306
Lincolnshire PCT	1,302
Solihull Care Trust	1,297
Norfolk PCT	1,295
Swindon PCT	1,288
North Somerset PCT	1,288
Telford and Wrekin PCT	1,282
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	1,282
Kingston PCT	1,280
Somerset PCT	1,276
Herefordshire PCT	1,274
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	1,273
Northamptonshire PCT	1,269
Shropshire County PCT	1,268

2007-08 revenue allocations per head of population in descending order

PCT	2007-08 allocation per head (£)
Gloucestershire PCT	1,261
Surrey PCT	1,258
West Hertfordshire PCT	1,257
Medway PCT	1,254
East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT	1,248
Berkshire East PCT	1,243
Warwickshire PCT	1,241
Worcestershire PCT	1,239
West Kent PCT	1,239
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,238
South Staffordshire PCT	1,234
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1,230
Suffolk PCT	1,227
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	1,220
Hampshire PCT	1,212
Milton Keynes PCT	1,201
Wiltshire PCT	1,194
Bedfordshire PCT	1,185
Oxfordshire PCT	1,171
Buckinghamshire PCT	1,168
Cambridgeshire PCT	1,160
Berkshire West PCT	1,155
Mid Essex PCT	1,150
South Gloucestershire PCT	1,143
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1,140
England average	1,388

Primary Care Trusts: Planning

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which primary care trusts (PCTs) are *(a)* reviewing and *(b)* formally consulting on the future provision of hospital-based services; and by what means she proposes to inform Parliament on progress and decisions made in each PCT area; [129903]

(2) which primary care trusts are *(a)* reviewing and *(b)* consulting on the provision of (i) acute services, (ii) accident and emergency provision and (iii) maternity provision in their areas. [129904]

Andy Burnham: Any proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally.

There is a well established and well understood process for managing formal public consultations on proposals for major service change so that the public and other stakeholders can help to inform the local debate.

Primary Care Trusts: Prisons

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have a prison facility within the geographical area they cover. [130195]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The information requested is shown in the table. The list does not include private prisons, for which primary care trusts do not have responsibility for commissioning health care.

Primary care trust (PCT)	Prison establishments for which the PCT has responsibility for commissioning healthcare
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	HMP Hindley
	HMP Risley
Bassetlaw PCT	HMP Ranby
Bedfordshire PCT	HMP Bedford
Berkshire West PCT	HMP Reading
Bristol PCT	HMP Bristol
Buckinghamshire PCT	HMP Aylesbury
	HMP Grendon/Spring Hill
Cambridgeshire PCT	HMP Littlehey
	HMP Whitemoor
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	HMP Styal
Central Lancashire PCT	HMP Garth
	HMP Preston
	HMP Wymott
County Durham PCT	HMP Deerbolt
	HMP Durham
	HMP Frankland
	HMP Low Newton
Cumbria PCT	HMP Haverigg
Derbyshire County PCT	HMP Foston Hall
	HMP Sudbury
Devon PCT	HMP Channings Wood
	HMP Dartmoor
	HMP Exeter
Doncaster PCT	HMP Lindholme
	HMP Moorland
Dorset PCT	HMP Dorchester
	HMP Guys Marsh
	HMP Portland
	HMP The Verne
	HMP Weare
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	HMP Everthorpe
	HMP Full Sutton
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	HMP Lewes
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	HMP Canterbury
	HMP Elmley
	HMP Stanford Hill

Primary care trust (PCT)	Prison establishments for which the PCT has responsibility for commissioning healthcare
	HMP Swaleside
Gloucestershire PCT	HMP Gloucester
	HMP Eastwood Park
	HMP Leyhill
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	HMP Blundeston
Greenwich PCT	HMP Belmarsh
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	HMP Wormwood Scrubs
Hampshire PCT	HMP Winchester
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	HMP Birmingham
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	HMP Buckley Hall
Hounslow PCT	HMP Feltham
Hull PCT	HMP Hull
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	HMP Albany
	HMP Camp Hill
	HMP Parkhurst
Islington PCT	HMP Holloway
	HMP Pentonville
Lambeth PCT	HMP Brixton
Leeds PCT	HMP Leeds
	HMP Wealstun
	HMP Wetherby
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	HMP Ashwell
	HMP Gartree
	HMP Glen Parva
	HMP Stocken
	HMP Leicester
Lincolnshire PCT	HMP Lincoln
	HMP Morton Hall
	HMP North Sea Camp
Liverpool PCT	HMP Liverpool
Manchester PCT	HMP Manchester
Medway PCT	HMP Cookham Wood
	HMP Rochester
Mid Essex PCT	HMP Chelmsford

Primary care trust (PCT)	Prison establishments for which the PCT has responsibility for commissioning healthcare
Milton Keynes PCT	HMP Woodhill
Norfolk PCT	HMP Norwich
	HMP Wayland
North Lancashire PCT	HMP Kirkham
	HMP Lancaster Farms
	HMP Lancaster Castle
North Staffordshire PCT	HMP Werrington
North Tees PCT	HMP Holme House
	HMP Kirklevington Grange
North Yorkshire and York PCT	HMP Askham Grange
	HMP Northallerton
Northamptonshire PCT	HMP Onley
	HMP Wellingborough
Northumberland Care Trust	HMP Acklington
	HMP Castington
Nottingham City PCT	HMP Nottingham
Nottinghamshire County PCT	HMP Whatton
Oxfordshire PCT	HMP Bullingdon
	HMP Huntercombe
Portsmouth City PCT	HMP Kingston
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	HMP Latchmere House
Shropshire County PCT	HMP Shrewsbury
	HMP Stoke Heath
Somerset PCT	HMP Shepton Mallet
South East Essex PCT	HMP Bullwood Hall
South Staffordshire PCT	HMP Drake Hall
	HMP Brinsford
	HMP Featherstone
	HMP Stafford
	HMP Swinfen Hall
Suffolk PCT	HMP Edmunds Hill
	HMP Warren Hill
	HMP Hollesley Bay
	HMP Highpoint South
Surrey PCT	HMP Coldingley
	HMP Downview

Primary care trust (PCT)	Prison establishments for which the PCT has responsibility for commissioning healthcare
	HMP High Down
	HMP Send
Wakefield District PCT	HMP New Hall
	HMP Wakefield
Wandsworth PCT	HMP Wandsworth
Warrington PCT	HMP Thorn Cross
West Hertfordshire PCT	HMP The Mount
West Kent PCT	HMP Blantyre House
	HMP East Sutton Park
	HMP Maidstone
West Sussex PCT	HMP Ford
Wiltshire PCT	HMP Erlestoke
Worcestershire PCT	HMP Blakenhurst
	HMP Brockhill
	HMP Hewell Grange
	HMP Long Lartin

Private Sector Treatment

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 703, on private sector treatment, what further assessment she has made of the ability of the Bodmin Private Treatment Centre to achieve the 100 per cent. capacity target of its contract throughout the financial year 2006-07; and what proportion of contracted procedures were completed at the *(a)* Bodmin and *(b)* Plymouth treatment centres in each quarter since the contract commenced, broken down by procedure. [130777]

Andy Burnham: The local national health service remains confident that the Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre will reach full utilisation in the near future.

The Department measures independent sector treatment centre contract performance on the basis of value rather than activity. This is to allow for the variations, which can occur through substitution of activity between procedures of varying value.

Public Health Observatories

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions public health observatories have been asked to support the development of health impact assessments since 16 November 2004; and in which cases. [130413]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collect this data. However, our understanding from the Public Health Observatories (PHOs) is that they frequently input into local and regional health impact assessments (HIAs) as well as leading on them.

All PHOs are involved in HIA support and training activity to varying degrees.

PHOs utilise the HIA expertise that exists across their network in order to manage the provision of HIA training and support for local/regional colleagues. Through their network, PHOs are able to offer programmes around the country which contribute to educating colleagues about HIA at a variety of levels.

Quality Health Ltd.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what communications her Department has had with Quality Health Ltd. since March 2001. [130768]

Andy Burnham: The Department is not aware of any direct communications it has had with Quality Health Limited since 2001.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total expenditure by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* NHS organisations was on the services provided by Quality Health Ltd. in each year since March 2001. [130767]

Andy Burnham: The Department has not paid anything to Quality Health Ltd. since 2001. The information requested in respect of the national health service is not held by the Department.

Russells Hall Hospital

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2007 to the hon. Member for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne), *Official Report*, column 1586W, on Russells Hall Hospital, if she will list the private finance initiative projects where the increase in costs has been met by the Department increasing the revenue allocation for the trust and providing additional capital; and how much this amounted to in each such case. [129882]

Andy Burnham: The decision for the Department to meet the additional costs at Russells Hall Hospital arose out of a one off settlement of a contractual dispute between the trust and its private sector partner. To date the Department has not directly met cost increases at any other private finance initiative project.

Scottish Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total amount of expenditure by her Department in Scotland was in each of the last two years, broken down by constituency. [111238]

Andy Burnham: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Smoking: Licensed Premises

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance she has issued on specifications for *(a)* size, *(b)* content and *(c)* colour of no smoking signage in public houses and clubs; [130386]

(2) what guidance she has issued on specifications and design of smoking shelters in public houses and clubs; [130387]

(3) what plans there are to provide advisory material for publicans and landlords on implementation of the forthcoming smoking ban in public places; [130389]

(4) what guidance she has issued on the specifications and design of no smoking signs in public places. [130391]

Caroline Flint: The Department is providing a range of information and support to businesses to help them be ready for the implementation of smokefree legislation on 1 July 2007.

On 23 March 2007, the Department published the guide 'Everything you need to prepare for the new smokefree law on 1 July 2007' with comprehensive information on smokefree legislation for businesses. The guide will be included within a pack to be posted to all employing and trading businesses in England during April and is available to download on the Smokefree England website at:

www.smokefreeengland.co.uk

The guidance includes full details of the minimum requirements for signage. The guidance packs that businesses will receive will also include no-smoking signs and other support materials.

Smokefree legislation will apply to premises that are enclosed and substantially enclosed, which is explained in the guidance. The Department cannot provide specific guidance on the design or construction of smoking shelters.

Businesses can also contact their local council for information and advice on getting ready for the implementation of smokefree legislation.

A copy of the guidance is available in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the likely effect on the numbers of smokers of banning the sale of tobacco in pubs and clubs. [130419]

Caroline Flint: The Government have not made an assessment of the likely effect on the numbers of people who smoke of banning the sale of tobacco in pubs and clubs.

Smoking: Public Places

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received on the health effects of the smoking of shisha pipes in public places. [131756]

Caroline Flint: The Health Act 2006 will prohibit smoking in enclosed and substantially enclosed workplaces and public places. Within the Act, smoking refers to smoking tobacco or anything which contains tobacco, or smoking any other substance. The smokefree provisions within the Health Act will therefore apply to the use of waterpipes such as shisha and hookah.

Smoking of waterpipes was addressed in the regulatory impact assessment for smokefree legislation, the Department's consultation on proposed smokefree regulations and was debated during the passage of the Health Bill through Parliament.

Representations on the health effects of smoking of waterpipes have referred to World Health Organisation (WHO) advice that using a waterpipe to smoke tobacco poses a serious potential health hazard to smokers and others exposed to the smoke emitted. The WHO advice states that second-hand smoke from waterpipes is a mixture of tobacco smoke in addition to smoke from the fuel, and therefore poses a serious health risk for non-smokers and recommends that waterpipes should be prohibited in public places consistent with bans on cigarette and other forms of tobacco smoking (World Health Organisation (2005) "Waterpipe Tobacco Smoke: Health effects, research needs and recommended actions by regulators." WHO, Geneva).

In February 2007, the American Lung Association published advice titled "An emerging deadly trend: waterpipe tobacco use" which cited evidence that waterpipe use may increase exposure to carcinogens because smokers use a waterpipe over a much longer period of time, often 40 to 45 minutes, rather than the five to 10 minutes it takes to smoke a cigarette. Due to the longer, more sustained period of inhalation and exposure, a waterpipe smoker may inhale as much smoke as consuming 100 or more cigarettes during a single session. The American Lung Association report concluded that existing evidence on waterpipe smoking shows that it carries many of the same health risks and has been linked to many of the same diseases caused by cigarette smoking.

Copies of documents referred to are available in the Library.

Smoking: Television

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on (i) the prevalence of the depiction of smoking on television and in films and (ii) trends in such depiction over the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [131146]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not commissioned any surveys on this area. However, we are committed in the 2004 Choosing Health White Paper to pressing the responsible bodies to reduce the depiction of smoking in television and films. As a result, the British Board of Film Classification has revised its guidance to take account of portrayal of smoking in its classification of films. Following pressure from the Department, the Ofcom TV broadcasting guidelines have been tightened up to discourage the portrayal of smoking before the 9.00 pm watershed in a glamorous or positive way, unless editorially necessary. In line with the smokefree law coming into force in July 2007, no smoking will be allowed in this year's Big Brother house.

Soft Drinks

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of litres of fizzy drinks that have been consumed per person in England over the last 12 months. [128381]

Barry Gardiner: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not collect specific data on the consumption of fizzy drinks.

However, according to the Expenditure and Food Survey England, household residents purchased an average of 65 litres of ready-to-drink soft drinks per person in the year from April 2004 to March 2005. This figure includes still and fizzy soft drinks, including fruit juice drinks, but excludes pure fruit juices and smoothies.

Surgery: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Eastbourne Downs NHS Primary Care Trust patients had their operation cancelled on the day of the operation in each of the last five years, broken down by type of operation. [130970]

Andy Burnham: The following table details the number of last minute operations cancelled for non-medical reasons at East Sussex Hospitals National Health Service Trust from 2002-03 to 2006-07.

	Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons
2002-03	302
2003-04	375
2004-05	632
2005-06	491
2006-07	93

Note:
Data for 2006-07 are for quarter 1 to quarter 3 only.
Source:
Department of Health dataset QMCO

Surgery: Eastern Region

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were carried out by Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals in each of the last five years; and what the total cost was of these operations. [129698]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows the count of procedures for finished consultant episodes carried out in the Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals National Health Service Trust for 2001-02 to 2005-06. Total costs of operations performed by NHS trusts are not held centrally.

	Total number of procedures
2001-2002	83,770
2002-2003	94,954
2003-2004	102,900
2004-2005	104,168
2005-2006	109,316

Notes:
OPCS 4.2 codes A01 to X59
Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)
An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider.
All operations count of mentions
These figures represent a count of all mentions of an operation in any of the 12 (4 prior to 2002-03) operation fields in the HES data set. Therefore, if an operation is mentioned in more than one operation field during an episode, all operations are counted.
Main operation
The main operation is the first recorded operation in the HES data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, for example time waited, but the figures for all operations count of episodes give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.
Secondary procedure
As well as the main operative procedure, there are up to 11 (3 prior to 2002-03) secondary operation fields in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) that show secondary or additional procedures performed on the patient during this episode of care.
Data quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisation to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data view HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (for example the data are ungrossed). *Source:* Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Three Rivers Primary Care Trust: Wheelchairs

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent *(a)* estimate she has made of waiting times for assessments for electrically-powered indoor/outdoor wheelchairs (EPIOC) and *(b)* assessment she has made of adequacy of funding for EPIOC in Watford and Three Rivers Primary Care Trust (PCT); and how many people over the age of 18 years in the area covered by the PCT were allocated an EPIOC in each of the last three years. [130467]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect information on waiting times for assessments for electrically-powered wheelchairs.

Funding for all national health service wheelchair services comes out of revenue funding to primary care trusts (PCTs). This funding is not ring-fenced and it is for each PCT to assess local need and allocate funds accordingly.

Information about funding for the provision of electrically-powered wheelchairs and the number of people aged over 18 years in the area covered by the PCT who have been allocated an electrically-powered indoor/outdoor wheelchair, are not held centrally.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what regulations govern the transplanting of pig organs into human beings; and if she will make a statement; [130883]

(2) what regulations govern the use of combined human and pig *(a)* organs and *(b)* cells for research purposes; and if she will make a statement. [130884]

Caroline Flint: To date there have been no human transplant procedures in the United Kingdom using pig organs.

European Union (EU) legislation on medicinal products (Commission Directive 2003/63/EU) and the Clinical Trials Regulations (2004) make specific provision for such transplantation proposals. In December 2006, the Department issued guidance which covers all aspects of animal to human transplant procedures, which reflect international recommendations. The guidance is available in the Library and from the Departments website:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_063075

In addition, the use of animals in such research, or as sources for clinical animal to human transplantation requires appropriate authorisation under the terms of the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, which is the responsibility of the Home Office.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 prohibits mixing live human gametes with the live gametes of any animal, except in certain circumstances for testing the fertility or normality of human sperm. The Government have undertaken a wide-ranging review of the law on assisted reproduction and embryology and expects shortly to publish draft legislation for pre-legislative scrutiny.

West Sussex Primary Care Trust: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the projected deficit of the West Sussex Primary Care Trust in the forthcoming financial year 2007-08 if the reconfiguration proposed in Fit for the Future was not to take place. [131338]

Caroline Flint: All national health service organisations are currently in the process of finalising their financial plans for 2007-08.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the deficit of the West Sussex Primary Care Trust is accounted for by secondary care. [131339]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Wheelchairs: Waiting Lists

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time was for provision of a powered wheelchair in each strategic health authority in each of the last five years; [128921]

(2) To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding was provided by each strategic health authority for the provision of electric-powered wheelchairs in each of the last five years. [128922]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information about waiting times and funding for provision of electric-powered wheelchairs is not held centrally.

Funding for national health service wheelchair services comes from revenue funding to primary care trusts (PCTs). It is for each PCT to assess local need and allocate funds accordingly, as funding is not ring fenced.

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust: Ophthalmology

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints have been received in the last two years concerning eye surgery which took place at the *(a)* Alexandra and Princess of Wales, *(b)* Worcester Royal and *(c)* Kidderminster Hospital. [128840]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not available centrally.

TREASURY

Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* average per capita and *(b)* total amount of alcohol consumed in the UK in each of the last five years. [130385]

John Healey: Available statistics are based on the clearances of alcohol products when they are released for consumption in the UK and become liable to duty. Figures on total alcohol clearances and alcohol clearances per adult can be found in the HM Revenue and Customs 'Alcohol Factsheet' section 2, tables 2.1 and 2.3, which are available from the HM Revenue and Customs website address at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factAlcohol

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in respect of how many deaths in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire alcohol was cited as the primary cause in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [130736]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 April 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking in respect of how many deaths in (a) Ribble Valley and (b) Lancashire alcohol was cited as the primary cause in each of the last five years. (130736)

The attached table provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in (a) Ribble Valley local authority district and (b) Lancashire county, from 2001 to 2005 (the latest year available).

So that comparison over time is for a consistent area, deaths in the current Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen unitary authorities, which were part of the former County of Lancashire, have not been included for any year.

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], Ribble Valley local authority districts and Lancashire county[2], 2001 to 2005[3]

	Deaths (persons)	
	Ribble Valley	Lancashire
2001	5	179
2002	4	162
2003	5	171
2004	8	178
2005	8	198

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the following box.
[2] Based on local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many deaths in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex alcohol was cited as the primary cause in each of the last 10 years. [130962]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 April 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking in how many deaths in (a) Eastbourne and (b) East Sussex alcohol was cited as the primary cause in each of the last 10 years. (130962)

The attached table provides the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in (a) Eastbourne local authority and (b) East Sussex county, from 1996 to 2005 (the latest year available).

So that comparison over time is for a consistent area, deaths in the current Brighton and Hove unitary authority, which was part of the former County of East Sussex, have not been included for any year.

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], Eastbourne local authority and East Sussex county[2], 1996 to 2005[3]

	Deaths (persons)	
	Eastbourne	East Sussex
1996	10	40
1997	7	42
1998	10	38
1999	9	36
2000	10	45
2001	17	65
2002	12	55
2003	13	57
2004	18	67
2005	22	81

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes, are shown in the boxes below. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9)

Cause of death	ICD-9 code(s)
Alcoholic psychoses	291
Alcohol dependence syndrome	303
Non-dependent abuse of alcohol	305.0
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	425.5
Alcoholic fatty liver	571.0
Acute alcoholic hepatitis	571.1
Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver	571.2
Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified	571.3
Chronic hepatitis	571.4
Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol	571.5
Other chronic non-alcoholic liver disease	571.8
Unspecified chronic liver disease without mention of alcohol	571.9
Accidental poisoning by alcohol	E860

Box 2: Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excluding Biliary cirrhosis)	K74[1]
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

[1] Excluding K74.3-K74.5.

Assets

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will set rules for the appointment of the policyholder advocate which ensure that the person is appointed by someone independent of the company holding the orphan assets; what this advocate's role is; to whom he is responsible; who pays him his remuneration; on what basis the advocate can agree to a different division of the orphan assets on reattribution which is a higher percentage for the shareholders than that required on distribution; how the proportions upon reattribution get decided, and by whom, in cases where the independent policyholder advocate indicates dissent to that which is proposed; and if he will make a statement. [131107]

Ed Balls: Supervision of reattribution of inherited estate is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA). FSA rules require the appointment of a policyholder advocate either nominated or approved by the FSA. The purpose of the policyholder advocate is to ensure that there will be an independent figure representing policyholders' interests to the firm. The precise role of the policyholder advocate depends on the nature of the firm and its proposed reattribution, but the FSA expects the proposed policyholder advocate to be free from any conflicts of interest which may be detrimental to the interests of the policyholders they represent. Typically, the policyholder advocate will negotiate with the firm on behalf of the with-profits policyholders and advise policyholders on issues such as the allocation of benefits and eligibility. He will also prepare a report on these issues. The FSA expects shareholders to meet a reasonable proportion of the policyholder advocate's costs, for the arrangement to be fair, and for the policyholder advocate to confirm that he is satisfied with it. If no agreement on reattribution is reached, the FSA expects all costs to be met by the party which initiated the process (typically the shareholders). The precise basis on which assets are reattributed will depend on the nature of the firm and the proposed reattribution and is a matter for negotiation between the firm and the policyholder advocate. If the firm decides to make an offer to policyholders which does not have the support of the policyholder advocate, it must tell policyholders why it is doing so. Policyholders may then decide individually whether or not to accept the offer, taking into account the recommendation of the policyholder advocate.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will take steps to ensure *(a)* fairness to policyholders in the treatment of orphan assets and *(b)* that unreasonable dividends do not accrue to shareholders from orphan assets does not happen; and if he will make a statement; [131108]

(2) if he will introduce rules preventing the reattribution of orphan assets on any basis other than that which would apply to their distribution; and if he will make a statement. [131109]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 729W.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a *(a)* policyholder and *(b)* shareholder is liable for tax on his share of a reallocated orphan asset. [131112]

Ed Balls: A policyholder is liable to tax on any distribution of the inherited estate to him as a bonus in the same way as he is liable on any other gain from a life insurance policy. A shareholder is liable to tax on any distribution of the inherited estate in the same way as on any other dividend or distribution by the company to its shareholders.

Assets: Kazakhstan

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the regulations which govern the harbouring of assets such as those acquired by the members of the ruling elite of Kazakhstan; and if he will make a statement. [131384]

Mr. Hoon: I have been asked to reply.

According to the Kazakh constitution, the president is not permitted to hold any other paid positions nor to carry out entrepreneurial activities. The Kazakh Law "On Fighting Corruption" also requires each state executive to submit annual declarations of income received and property owned within and outside the Republic of Kazakhstan. Other members of the presidential family are entitled to perform entrepreneurial activities and own assets. However, the Law on Parliament stipulates that no deputy of Parliament may be employed in any other paid position and conduct entrepreneurial activity. We look to the Kazakh Government to apply these regulations effectively, but are not privy to the sort of information that would enable us to make an informed assessment.

Budgets

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Treasury's 2007 internal guidance for staff on security procedures for the Budget. [131340]

John Healey: Internal guidance on security procedures for the Budget is by its nature confidential and it would be inappropriate for it to be made public.

Cannabis: Death

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people under the age of 25 years committed suicide due to cannabis-induced psychosis in 2006; [131201]

(2) how many deaths have been attributed to cannabis-induced psychosis in the last five years. [131202]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 16 April 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent questions asking how many people under the age of 25 years committed suicide due to cannabis-induced psychosis in

2006 and how many deaths have been attributed to cannabis-induced psychosis in the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (131201, 131202)

The most recent year for which figures are available is 2005. In England and Wales there were no suicides[1] in that year where psychosis due to the use of cannabinoids[2] was mentioned on the death certificate.

In the period 2001-2005 there was one death with an underlying cause of psychotic disorder due to the use of cannabinoids.[2]

[1] In routine statistics, ONS defines suicides as deaths from both intentional self-harm and 'injury or poisoning of undetermined intent'. It is likely that most of these latter deaths are cases where the harm is self-inflicted but there 'was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves.'

The cause of death for intentional self-harm was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84, and the cause of death for injury or poisoning of undetermined intent was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes Y10-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending.

[2] Selected using ICD-10 code F12.5.

Capital Gains Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue impact of charging capital gains tax on residential property owned by non-domiciled and non-resident individuals; and if he will make a statement. [131616]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the numbers, disposal value and gains made on assets disposed of in financial year 2003-04 by type of asset, including residential property, are available in National Statistics table 14.4 on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital_gains/menu.htm

Estimates of the revenue impact of charging capital gains tax on residential property owned by non-domiciled and non-resident individuals are not available.

Child Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the additional cost beyond the standard uprating process of the policy announced on 21 March 2007 to increase child benefit for the eldest child to £20 per week from 6 April 2010; how many children he expects to be removed from poverty as a consequence of this change; and if he will make a statement. [130181]

Ed Balls: The cost of increasing the eldest child rate of child benefit to £20 per week from 6 April 2010, beyond statutory uprating in line with RPI, is £95 million in 2010-11. The increase to £20 per week will provide support to all families in line with the principle of progressive universalism. It is estimated that it would reduce child poverty by up to 10,000 in 2010.

Construction Industry Scheme

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many temporary Construction Industry Scheme 4 cards were issued without the applicant holding a current national insurance number in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; [131254]

(2) how many temporary Construction Industry Scheme 4 cards were issued in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; and how many such cards are in circulation. [131255]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 767W, for the number of temporary Construction Industry Scheme 4 cards issued in 2004-05 and 2005-06. The available data for 2006-07 now show that the number of temporary Construction Industry Scheme 4 cards issued in this year is 76,000[1].

Temporary cards are issued for 12 months where a validated national insurance number cannot be supplied immediately and automatically expire after 12 months. Of the temporary cards 2006-07, 75,000 are currently valid and eligible for use.

Temporary construction industry scheme 4 cards ceased to be used when the new Construction Industry Scheme was introduced on 6 April this year.

[1] Data for 2006-07 are incomplete.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many temporary employees were contracted to work for his Department in 2005-06; and what the total cost of such employees was in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 1997-98. [106701]

John Healey: In 2005-06 the Department spent £863,833 on temporary workers.

The number of temporary workers contracted by the Treasury is not recorded centrally, and the costs for 1997-98 are not available due to a change in finance system.

This information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Smith Institute

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answers of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1134W and 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 412W, on the Smith Institute, how many events were held by the Smith Institute at number 11 Downing street in each year since 1997; [123620]

(2) what security costs will be reimbursed to his Department by the Smith Institute. [126189]

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 411W, on the Smith Institute, if he will list the events hosted by the Smith Institute at number 11 Downing street; and what costs were recovered from the institute in each case. [130287]

John Healey *[holding answer 26 February 2007]*: Since 1997, 67 separate charities have used number 11 of which the Smith Institute is one. A list of these charities is included on the Treasury website.

The Smith Institute asked in 1997 to use the facility for seminars on a once a month basis and sometimes, when they are conducting a series of seminars, on a more regular basis. As previously reported, the Smith

Institute held 27 seminars in the last 12 months. Any charities who use or want to use 11 Downing street can apply for more extended access if this is their wish and subject to availability.

Every external organisation who uses number 11 does so on the same basis: the organisers of events at number 11 meet all additional costs associated with holding the event.

Departments: Internet

Mr. Don Foster: To ask Chancellor of the Exchequer which websites his Department has registered in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [130465]

John Healey: The Treasury has registered no websites in the last 12 twelve months.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on newspapers and periodicals by his Department in January 2007. [123887]

John Healey: The Treasury's expenditure in January 2007 on newspapers was £1,000 and expenditure on periodicals, including trade, accountancy and economics journals, was £5,000. The combined total represents a reduction of £2,000 or 25 per cent. on the cost of expenditure on newspapers and periodicals compared to the last monthly total published on 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1022W.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings took place between Ministers in his Department and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date was of each such meeting. [131040]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1441-2W, on departments: public expenditure, when his Department approved the Home Office's proposals to commit resources to *(a)* the identity cards scheme and *(b)* the construction of 8,000 extra prison places announced by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in July 2006. [131373]

Mr. Timms: The decision to introduce ID cards was taken by Cabinet in November 2003. The Home Office has delegated authority to commit resources up to certain defined limits. The total cost of the ID cards scheme will exceed these limits and so the delivery will require Treasury approval. Approval will be sought at an appropriate stage in the project planning process.

The announcement by the Home Secretary of plans to increase prison capacity by 8,000 places was made with the prior agreement of HM Treasury. The individual projects that will deliver the new places will need to receive HM Treasury approval where they exceed the relevant limits. Approval is sought on a project-by-project basis at an appropriate stage in the project planning process.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions his wife has accompanied him on official business abroad at the expense of the public purse, and at what cost, in each year. [130288]

Mr. Gordon Brown: My wife accompanies me on official visits overseas as appropriate. The costs of such visits are included in the total cost of Ministers' visits overseas which is published on an annual basis. From 2006-07, the number of such visits will be included in the annual list. Copies of previous lists are available in the Library of the House.

Duty Free Allowances

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to double the tax-free allowance for international travellers returning from trips outside the EU as described in the pre-Budget report in December 2006. [130466]

John Healey: On 28 November 2006, European Finance Ministers agreed to raise the tax-free allowance for people returning from outside the EU by air and sea to €430 (£290). This doubles the current allowance for all UK travellers returning from third countries. The Government will lay the necessary order to bring the higher allowance into force at the earliest opportunity after parallel EU legislation to increase Customs Duty allowances is adopted. This is expected to be later this year.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the statement that the euro makes us strong contained in the Berlin Declaration of 25 March 2007 forms part of the Government's European policy. [130720]

Ed Balls: The Government's policy on membership of the single currency was set out by the Chancellor in his statement to the House of Commons in October 1997, and again in the Chancellor's statement on the five tests assessment in June 2003. The determining factor underpinning any Government decision on membership of the single currency is the national economic interest and whether the economic case for joining is clear and unambiguous.

The Chancellor announced in Budget 2007 that, "the Government does not propose a euro assessment to be initiated at the time of this budget". The Treasury will again review the situation at Budget time next year as required by the Chancellor's June 2003 statement.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward fiscal measures to assist householders living in older housing stock to insulate their homes to reduce energy wastage and carbon emissions. [130369]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA funds the Energy Saving Trust which works to increase demand for energy efficiency through raising awareness and providing advice and support for action by householders. In addition, the Energy Efficiency Commitment has placed an obligation on energy suppliers to promote improvements in household energy efficiency.

Since its launch in June 2000, the Warm Front Scheme has assisted over 1.2 million households in fuel poverty in England, mainly through energy efficiency measures, including loft and cavity wall insulation.

Fuel poverty is a devolved matter and, in Wales, the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) funds insulation and heating measures in order to reduce fuel bills and improve domestic energy efficiency.

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will offer fiscal incentives to those on low incomes to encourage the use of low energy light bulbs. [130491]

John Healey: Support is available for the purchases of low energy light bulbs under the Government's Energy Efficiency Commitment, which will have provided 40 million bulbs to consumers by 2008, and through the Warm Front Scheme for vulnerable households.

Our existing European agreements prevent us from reducing the VAT rate on low energy light bulbs. However, to encourage the purchase of such bulbs and to reduce their upfront cost, the Chancellor has written to European Finance Ministers and the European Commission to recommend the introduction of a reduced VAT rate for energy efficient products.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council: Finance

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to use end year flexibility to provide the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council with funds for *(a)* postdoctoral fellowships and *(b)* other purposes. [130615]

John Healey: The allocation of end-year flexibility to specific research councils is a decision for the Secretary of State for the DTI.

European Community

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a list of the attendees, with their affiliations, of public events hosted at 11 Downing street on European Community matters in the last two years. [130632]

John Healey: Number 11 Downing street is used as a venue for Government meetings, official meetings, meetings with external stakeholders and events by charities. As was the case with the previous administration, it is not the Government's practice to disclose lists of individuals.

European Union: Citizenship

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures were funded in the UK under the Europe for Citizens programme in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [130656]

Mr. Woodward: I have been asked to reply.

The Europe for Citizens programme began on 1 January 2007. Therefore, no measures were funded in the last 12 months.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue HM Treasury raised through the duty on *(a)* cider, *(b)* sparkling cider, *(c)* beer, *(d)* wine, *(e)* sparkling wine and *(f)* spirits in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [130520]

John Healey: The total duty receipts by type of alcohols products (cider, beer, wine and spirits) can be found in the HM Revenue and Customs 'Beer & Cider Bulletin', 'Wine of Fresh Grapes or Made Wine Bulletin' and 'Spirits Bulletin', which are available from the HM Revenue and Customs website addresses at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullbeer

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullfreshgrape

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullmadewine

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullspirits

HM Revenue and Customs only collects total duty receipts for alcohol products and does not split the receipts into still or sparkling alcohol products.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce measures to assist rural users of four wheel drive vehicles. [130368]

John Healey: The Government believe that it is important that all cars registered from March 2001 are treated consistently on a carbon dioxide emissions basis under vehicle excise duty.

Vehicle excise duty for cars was reformed in 2001 and is now based on graduated CO_2 emissions bands, which give a clear signal to motorists to choose less polluting vehicles. The structure of vehicle excise duty means that vehicles in the same class or of a similar size are in different bands—for example, there are various models of four wheel drive vehicles not in bands F and G. This enables people to choose less polluting vehicles but keep the same type of vehicle.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will exempt Land Rovers and similar vehicles in use in rural areas which are necessary for those who work and live there from the additional excise duty mentioned in the Budget. [131318]

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of his Budget measures on the vehicle excise duty on drivers resident in rural areas. [130576]

John Healey: Vehicle excise duty for cars was reformed in 2001 and is now based on graduated carbon dioxide emissions bands, which give a clear signal to motorists to choose less polluting vehicles.

Budget 2007 announced rates for the next three years including increases in band G in 2007-08 and for 2008-09 followed by a freeze for 2009-10, along with a reduction in the band B rate for low carbon cars in 2007-08 which will be frozen for the subsequent two years. Band G rates will apply to all cars with emissions above 225 grams CO_2 per kilometre registered from 23 March 2006 onwards.

Budget 2007 changes to vehicle excise duty apply across the UK and across manufacturers, sharpening the environmental signal to all UK motorists to purchase more fuel efficient vehicles. The sharpening of environmental signals will help deliver a 0.1-0.17 MtC reduction in CO_2 emissions by 2020.

Agricultural vehicles are exempt from payment of vehicle excise duty benefiting 283,000 vehicles in 2005.

Financial Ombudsman Service

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure the independence of the Independent Adviser to the Financial Ombudsman Service. [131433]

Ed Balls: The role of the independent assessor to the Financial Ombudsman Service is not set out in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Following consultation, the board of (the Financial Ombudsman Service set up the post in 2001, under terms designed to secure the independence of the person appointed.

Under his terms of reference, the independent assessor can consider complaints about the Financial Ombudsman Service's procedures and the behaviour of its staff. Disagreements about the merit of decisions are specifically excluded from his jurisdiction. The independent assessor is authorised to make findings and recommendations for redress in cases where he believes it is justified.

Each year, the independent assessor writes an annual report, which is contained with the Financial Ombudsman Service's annual review. In it, he details the number and nature of the cases referred to him and the outcome of his investigations.

Following a national advertisement and open selection process, Sir Edward Osmotherly was appointed to the post of independent assessor in December 2001. The present incumbent, Michael Barnes CBE, succeeded him in April 2002.

Financial Services: EC Law

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 474W, on financial services: EC law, which other European Union member states have transposed the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive since 31 January; and when the Government expects those states which have not yet transposed the Directive to do so. [130211]

Ed Balls: The Commission has asked all member states to confirm when they will complete transposition of the two MiFID directives and this information is available at

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/securities/isd/mifid_implementation_en_htm.

According to the responses provided so far to the Commission on the above website, as of November 2004 the UK, Ireland and Rumania had reported that they had fully transposed both MiFID directives. Lithuania reported it had transposed the level 1 MiFID directive. And by the end of the summer, the majority of countries plan to have completed transposition.

Financial Services: Regulation

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the system is for the regulation of independent financial advisers. [131111]

Ed Balls: The provision of financial advice is regulated under the terms of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Regulated Activities) Order 2001. Regulatory principles and detailed rules are made and enforced by the Financial Services Authority. These principles and rules require advisers to take a number of steps to ensure they provide suitable advice and treat their customers fairly. Where consumers have a complaint against a financial adviser which cannot be resolved through the adviser's own complaints process, they have access to the Financial Ombudsman service.

Government Departments: Fees and Charges

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government rules are on charging by departments for services to the public, with particular reference to full cost recovery. [130861]

Mr. Timms: Government charging policy applies to all services provided by public bodies such as departments, agencies and NDPBs. Charges for statutory services to the public are normally set to recover the full administrative costs of the service (full cost recovery), unless legislation explicitly provides otherwise. The same principle applies where public bodies provide services to one another.

Where public bodies provide discretionary services to the public, often into competitive markets, the policy is that charges should reflect the market price, in the interests of fair competition.

The main exception is charges for information. Government policy is that certain information services should be provided free of charge or at substantially reduced cost.

Heads of State

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met a foreign Head of State with the Prime Minister. [128875]

John Healey: No. 10 issues press conference transcripts following meetings with Heads of State. In addition to meeting the Prime Minister some Heads of State have on occasion also met with the Chancellor.

Income: Distribution

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average wealth Gini coefficient was between *(a)* 1979 and 1990, *(b)* 1979 and 1997 and *(c)* 1997 and 2006; and if he will make a statement. [130726]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates for the wealth Gini coefficient from 1979-2003 are published in Table 13.5 on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal_wealth/table13 5_pdf.

Figures for subsequent years are not yet available.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average income Gini coefficient was between *(a)* 1979 and 1990, *(b)* 1979 and 1997 and *(c)* 1997 and 2006; and if he will make a statement. [130728]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the DWP publication "Households Below Average Income" and the ONS publication "The Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income, 2004-05".

Inheritance Tax

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average inheritance tax paid was in each year since 1996-97. [129105]

Dawn Primarolo: 94 per cent. of estates do not pay inheritance tax. For estates that did pay tax, the average amount of inheritance tax paid is shown in the following table, rounded to the nearest £1,000.

Average UK Inheritance Tax Bill

	£000
1996-97	90
1997-98	95
1998-99	97
1999-2000	104
2000-01	107
2001-02	110
2002-03	98
2003-04	87
2004-05	91
2005-06	100

Inheritance Tax: Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will link the threshold for inheritance tax in Northern Ireland to the level of house prices there. [131131]

Dawn Primarolo: The inheritance tax nil-rate band increases each year by reference to the retail prices index unless Parliament decides otherwise.

However, the Chancellor announced in Budget 2007 increases in the nil-rate band in excess of the expected retail prices index for each year through to 2010-11 when it will reach £350,000.

Insurance: Pensioners

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to ensure that older people *(a)* are able to obtain quotes from insurance companies and *(b)* are not subject to additional premiums due to their age. [130709]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 28 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 599W. The Government do not prescribe the terms and conditions that insurance companies may set when offering insurance, nor do they intervene in the commercial decisions of insurers.

The Government's Discrimination Law Review is currently considering whether there is a case for prohibiting age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services, including insurance. The Government now expect to publish a Green Paper in May of this year.

Loans: Students

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the maximum period is during which HM Revenue and Customs may retain a student loan payment taken by pay as you earn before the amount is transferred to the Student Loans Company. [130882]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs transfers student loan repayments remitted by employers each month, along with pay as you earn (PAYE) tax and national insurance contributions (NIC) deducted from employees' earnings, to the Bank of England overnight following the date of receipt. No sums are retained or transferred to the Student Loans Company (SLC) at any stage.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether student loan payments received by HM Revenue and Customs are transferred to the Student Loan Company on an annual or monthly basis; and whether interest earned is credited to the student's account or retained by HM Revenue and Customs. [131056]

Dawn Primarolo: Any student loan repayments received by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are transferred overnight to the Treasury's consolidated account with the Bank of England. On a quarterly basis money is then transferred to the Department for Education and Skills.

HMRC does not retain any student loan repayments money nor does it earn any interest on it.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to remove the 70 per cent. scaling factor and ceiling in the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme. [126740]

John Healey: In the three years to 2007-08 local authorities will receive about £1 billion through LABGI as the Government have previously announced. The Government have abolished the

ceiling in LABGI. Due to Judicial Reviews brought by Corby and Slough authorities, this year the Government have retained the 70 per cent. scaling factor for payments to protect the important incentive this scheme creates for authorities both in this year and next year.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will answer the letters of 18 December 2006 and 19 December 2006 from the hon. Member for Northavon (our ref: denn/vct and you/lh) on the financing of AIDS treatment around the world. [130863]

John Healey: Both letters were transferred to the Department for International Development on 3 January and the hon. Member was informed on that day.

Ministerial Residences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which guests have stayed overnight at the flat above number 10 Downing street in the last 12 months. [111291]

John Healey: As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide lists of people who have visited or stayed at the flat above number 10 Downing street.

Ministers: Travel

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria he uses in deciding what means of transport to use to travel between 11 Downing street and the Palace of Westminster. [130750]

John Healey: Several factors, including security, are taken into account when determining the most appropriate mode of transport on official business.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 485W, on voluntary national insurance contributions, how many people his Department estimates will apply for refunds; [130941]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 485W, on voluntary national insurance contributions, how many people have applied for refunds in voluntary national insurance contributions paid since 25 May 2006. [130942]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to estimate the number of people who will apply for refunds as this depends on their personal circumstances. The number of people that have applied for refunds of voluntary contributions paid since 25 May 2006 is around 160.

No. 11 Downing Street: Meetings

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which charities have held meetings at 11 Downing street since December 2005. [113337]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which receptions he held at number 11 Downing street in December 2006; [115219]

(2) which functions were held at number 11 Downing street in November 2006. [111292]

John Healey: Number 11 Downing street is used as a venue for Government meetings, official meetings, meetings with external stakeholders and events by charities. This is fully in accordance with the ministerial code and long standing conventions governing the use of Downing street as operated by this and previous Governments.

A list of the charities that have used number 11 Downing street since 1997 is set out on the Treasury website.

Official Hospitality

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many functions held at number 11 Downing street in the last two years have been attended by *(a)* Sir Christopher Evans and *(b)* Rod Aldridge. [120688]

John Healey: Number 11 Downing street is used as a venue for Government meetings, official meetings, meetings with external stakeholders and events by charities. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to disclose lists of individuals who have visited No. 11.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether all the funding to be provided by central government departments towards the cost of the Olympics will be new money allocated in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [131367]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement made to the House by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on 15 March, *Official Report*, columns 450-466. This is a matter for consideration in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Pay: Public Sector

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the economic effects in Wales of the introduction of regional pay in the public sector. [131188]

Mr. Timms: In reserved areas it is for Government Departments to determine pay settlements within the framework of the Government's pay policy. The Government's pay policy promotes pay settlements which reflect local labour market conditions. In devolved areas it is for the Welsh Assembly government to determine pay settlements.

Pay: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely

effect of differential regional pay for public service employees in Wales on the Welsh economy. [131224]

Mr. Timms: In reserved areas it is for Government Departments to determine pay settlements within the framework of the Government's pay policy. The Government's pay policy promotes pay settlements which reflect local labour market conditions. In devolved areas it is for the Welsh Assembly government to determine pay settlements.

Public Bodies: Accountancy

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether public bodies are required to meet international generally accepted accounting principles for accounts published after July 2008; whether he expects compliance to ensure that the costs of the private finance initiative will be included on the public balance sheet; and what effect he expects inclusion to have on total Government borrowing. [130612]

Mr. Timms: As set out in paragraph 6.59 of the 2007 Financial Statement and Budget Report, the annual financial statements of Government Departments and other entities in the public sector are currently prepared using accounting polices based on UK generally accepted accounting practice. From financial year 2008-09, the annual financial statements of Government Departments and other entities in the public sector, will be prepared using international financial reporting standards, adapted as necessary for the public sector. There is as yet no EU-adopted IFRS standard setting out how the public-sector elements of PFI projects should be reported. It is too early to say what an IFRS standard, once introduced, will mean on a deal-by-deal basis for each PFI contract.

Public Expenditure

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is his Department's policy to allow savings on annually managed expenditure to fund spending through departmental expenditure limits as recommended by the Freud Review. [131143]

Ed Balls: The process for the allocation of funding to Government Departments is set out in 'Public planning and control in the UK—a brief introduction', which is available on the HMT Treasury website.

Public Sector: Fees and Charges

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of expanding co-payment in the public services. [130877]

Mr. Timms: Any assessment of how public services are funded must consider the impact on efficiency and equity of different funding models as well as any wider effects. Guidance on charging for Government services and products where co-payment is deemed appropriate is set out in The Fees and Charges Guide.

Revenue and Customs

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many home visits have been made by HM Revenue and Customs to individuals who qualify for this service each tax year since 2001-02; and what assessment he has made of the implications of trends in these figures. [131025]

Dawn Primarolo: The data requested is not available.

Revenue and Customs: Buildings

Mr. Meale: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will break down by main budget heading the costs of operating and maintaining HM Revenue and Customs' buildings and offices situated on the Castle Meadow site in Nottingham. [130729]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost of operating and maintaining the HM Revenue and Customs buildings and offices at Castle Meadow site in Nottingham from April 2006 to March 2007 are as shown in the following table.

Budget Heading	£ *Cost (net of VAT)*
PFI Unitary Charge	5,403,368
Business Rates	1,264,360
Utilities	371,501
Total	7,039,229

The PFI unitary charge is for the provision (by Mapeley) of the serviced accommodation at this address, this includes the facility management, maintenance and property costs for this site.

Revenue and Customs: Huddersfield

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure the provision of accessible premises in Huddersfield for people requiring information and advice from HM Revenue and Customs. [131595]

Dawn Primarolo: The hon. Member will be aware that HMRC has a commitment to retain face to face services at or close by the current location. In the event that they vacate the current office, HMRC will have several criteria for the new building, one of which will be that there is good customer access.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees of HM Revenue and Customs were employed in Huddersfield in each of the past 10 years. [131596]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the number of staff employed by HMRC and, previous to its formation in 2005, by its constituent former Departments (the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise) at offices in Huddersfield during this period.

	Headcount
1 April 1997	138
1 April 1998	128
1 April 1999	131
1 April 2000	135
1 April 2001	138
1 April 2002	131
1 April 2003	127
1 April 2004	131
1 April 2005	131
1 April 2006	120
1 March 2007	107

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to improve the provision of services and information by HM Revenue and Customs in Huddersfield. [131597]

Dawn Primarolo: In the last 18 months HMRC have made changes to the way their inquiry centres operate to improve the face to face service offered and its efficiency.

HMRC have an effective quality assurance system. Regular assurance checks are carried out by higher grade officers, checking that the processes and approach to customers are nationally consistent. In addition, managers discuss work issues with their staff on a weekly basis and carry out quarterly quality checks on the work of each member of their staff.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the average duration of a telephone call by a member of the public to the national helpline of HM Revenue and Customs was in the last period for which figures are available; [130820]

(2) what the average waiting time was before a telephone call by a member of the public to the national helpline of HM Revenue and Customs was answered by a member of staff in the last period for which figures are available; [130822]

(3) what targets have been set for the management of HM Revenue and Customs for the improved handling of telephone calls to the national helpline by members of the public; and if he will make a statement; [130823]

(4) how many telephone calls to the national helpline for HM Revenue and Customs were answered in 2005-06; and how many have been answered in 2006-07; [130824]

(5) how many full-time equivalent staff are employed to deal directly with telephone calls to HM Revenue and Customs' national helpline; [130825]

(6) how many customers are held in a telephone queue for the national helpline of HM Revenue and Customs before further calls are automatically terminated; [130826]

(7) how many telephone calls to the national helpline of HM Revenue and Customs were automatically terminated during 2005-06; how many have been so terminated in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [130827]

Dawn Primarolo: The data is not available in the format requested.

Road Transport

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give consideration to extending the review of road transport fuels which he has asked Professor Julia King and Sir Nicholas Stern to conduct to include an evaluation of alternatives to kerosene air transport fuel. [130004]

John Healey: The review will focus on road transport fuels and technologies. The Government's objective is to ensure that aviation is included within the EU emissions trading scheme as soon as possible, but in addition the Government will continue to explore areas where support may be appropriate in the development of alternative aviation fuels.

Sick Leave

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people of working age were off work for a period exceeding six months through sickness or disability in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006. [130848]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 16 April 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about people of working age who were off work for more than six months through sickness or disability in 1997 and 2006. I am replying in her absence. (130848)

Historically, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) collects information about people who were absent from work because of sickness or injury in the week before their interview. The answers to this question give no indication of the overall length of their sickness absence.

More recently, the LFS has been extended to ask whether respondents had been off work for illnesses caused or aggravated by work. This data however excludes non- work related sicknesses or disabilities that did not originate from the workplace. It also excludes those off work for over a year.

As a result, the information necessary to answer the question is not available from the LFS.

Sir Ronald Cohen

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many official functions held at No. 11 Downing Street in the last 12 months have been attended by Sir Ronald Cohen. [128366]

John Healey: No. 11 Downing Street is used as a venue for government meetings, official meetings, meetings with external stakeholders and events by charities. As was the case with the previous administration, it is not the Government's practice to disclose lists of individuals.

Small Businesses: Grants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made towards the establishment of a small business development bank. [126579]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are not progressing any proposal for the establishment of a small business development bank.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the reduction in the yield of stamp duty land tax as a result of the sale of commercial and residential property into offshore companies; and if he will make a statement. [131617]

Ed Balls: The purchase of UK commercial property by offshore companies attracts stamp duty land tax. No estimate is available of the subsequent reduction in yield from transactions of shares in those companies instead of the underlying property.

Taxation: Companies

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on UK investment of the Paymaster General's announcement on 2 March limiting sideways loss relief. [131358]

Dawn Primarolo: The changes announced on 2 March 2007 target the continued use of sideways loss relief for tax avoidance and should have no significant effect on genuine investment.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Mr. Malins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many taxpayers who submitted self-assessment tax returns were charged a penalty of £100 for late submission in each of the last three years; how many appealed against the penalty in each year; how many appeals were allowed in each year; what percentage of penalty charges were collected in each year; and how many were not collected due to death or tax due being under £100 in each year. [131420]

Dawn Primarolo: The total number of £100 late filing penalties issued, cancelled and appeals received against throughout the last three years are as detailed in the following table. HMRC does not have information on how many appeals were allowed, the percentage of these penalties collected or how many were not collected due to death or tax being under £100.

	Penalties issued	*Penalties cancelled*	*Penalty appeals received*
2003-04	1,640,267	215,851	157,001
2004-05	1,715,775	233,731	139,878
2005-06	1,658,883	190,407	142,993

Unemployment

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency, *(b)* the Tees Valley sub-regions, *(c)* the North East region and *(d)* the UK live in a family in which neither parent works. [130909]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 April 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking how many children in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency, *(b)* the Tees Valley sub-regions, *(c)* the North East region and *(d)* the UK live in a family in which neither parent works. (130909)

The attached table gives the number of children in families where no parent is working. The numbers in the table include children of lone parents who are not in employment as well as children of couples in which neither partner is in employment.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Number of children[1] in a family where no parent is working[2]: October to December 2006

	Thousand
United Kingdom	2,055
North East	95
Tees Valley sub-regions	28
Hartlepool constituency	3

[1] Children refers to children under 16. [2] Estimates exclude families with unknown economic activity status. *Source:* Labour Force Survey

Unemployment: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many economically inactive people of working age there were in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in age groups (i) 18 to 24, (ii) 25 to 50 and (iii) over 50 years old in each year since 1997. [130963]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 April 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about how many economically inactive people of working age there were in (a) Eastbourne and (b) East Sussex in age groups (i) 18 to 24, (ii) 25 to 50 and (iii) 50 years old or more in each year since 19911 (130963)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of inactivity from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of economically inactive persons, aged 16 to 24, 25 to 49, 50 to retirement age and for all persons of working age, resident in the Eastbourne constituency, from the annual local area LFS for the 12-month periods ending in February from 1997 to 2004 and from the APS for the 12-month periods ending in March from 2005 to 2006. These numbers are also expressed as a percentage of the relevant population. Table 2 shows similar information for East Sussex.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

All estimates refer to the current administrative East Sussex area.

Table 1: Economic inactivity by age group for the Eastbourne parliamentary constituency

Thousand

	16 to 24		25 to 49		50 to retirement age[1]		All persons of working age[2]	
12 months ending	Level	Rate (%)	Level	Rate (%)	Level	Rate (%)	Level	Rate (%)
February 1997	3	31	3	11	3	33	10	19
February 1998	2	24	5	16	4	42	11	22
February 1999	2	18	6	19	2	19	10	19
February 2000	[3]	[3]	5	17	2	21	8	17
February 2001	2	29	4	11	5	47	11	21
February 2002	1	12	4	14	5	39	11	21
February 2003	3	28	5	15	3	25	11	20
February 2004	2	21	7	20	3	21	11	20
March 2005	2	21	5	17	4	26	11	20
March 2006	3	21	4	14	4	29	11	19

[1] Males aged 50 to 64 and females aged 50 to 59. [2] Males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
[3] Sample size too small to provide estimates. *Notes*: 1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability. 2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution. *Source*: Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Table 2: Economic inactivity by age group for East Sussex

Thousand

	16 to 24		25 to 49		50 to retirement age[1]		All persons of working age[2]	
12 months ending	Level	Rate (%)	Level	Rate (%)	Level	Rate (%)	Level	Rate (%)
February 1997	11	26	20	13	19	29	50	19
February 1998	9	24	22	15	21	30	53	21
February 1999	6	14	22	15	22	31	50	19
February 2000	8	18	21	14	15	22	44	16
February 2001	11	26	16	11	18	24	46	17
February 2002	10	23	22	14	21	27	53	19
February 2003	11	24	22	15	21	26	54	20
February 2004	8	18	25	16	20	25	53	19
March 2005	10	23	21	14	23	27	54	19
March 2006	10	23	25	16	22	26	57	20

USA

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer where he stayed overnight on his official visit to Washington in December 2004; and what the cost of the stay was. [129325]

John Healey: All ministerial visits are conducted in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers". Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 and the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

Valuation and Lands Agency: ICT

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's estimate is of the value of the tangible fixed asset of the Valuation and Lands Agency's automated valuation computer database. [129494]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The current estimated fixed asset value of the database is £3,560,853.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's documents *(a)* CT IA 010905 (September 2005) and *(b)* CT IA 241005 (October 2005). [129491]

John Healey: A copy of the Valuation Office Agency's documents *(a)* and *(b)* have been placed in the Library.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which foreign visits were made by representatives of the Valuation Office Agency on official business in 2006; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* destination was in each case; [129510]

(2) pursuant to the answers of 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2134W, and of 30 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 845W, on the Valuation Office Agency, what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* destination in each country was of each foreign visit. [129713]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. member to the answer given on 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2134W, which sets out the foreign trips made in 2006. These visits were undertaken when the VOA was invited to share their expertise in the field of property valuation, as speakers or delegates at international conferences or providing advice to overseas Government valuation agencies.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Gateway Reviews *(a)* have been produced and *(b)* are underway in relation to projects by the Valuation Office Agency. [129590]

Dawn Primarolo: No Gateway Reviews are currently under way in relation to projects of the Valuation Office Agency. The last review undertaken for a project was in October 2005.

Valuation Office Agency: Travel

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Valuation Office Agency's policy is on its staff travelling first class by *(a)* rail and *(b)* air. [130545]

Dawn Primarolo: The Valuation Office Agency's travel; policy is set out in Section 7 of the Guide to Working in the Valuation Office Agency. The relevant section is enclosed:

All staff should normally use standard (or economy) class travel for:

- all rail journeys
- all air journeys of less than 90 minutes (each way)
- all ferry (or equivalent) travel

However, you may travel first class if:

- you are Band 2 or above, or
- you have reserved rights to travel first class (and you have completed the appropriate declaration), and
- the travel is for business) purposes (i.e. not for investitures, royal garden parties etc)

Nevertheless, even if you are entitled to first class travel, you should still use standard class) if you are undertaking a rail journey of short duration (i.e. of up to ground one hour for a single journey, or around two hours for a return journey). And you are also recommended to consider standard class for longer 'commuter type' travel, even when the journey time may exceed the durations mentioned above.

All staff may travel first class on an APEX ticket provided this is cheaper than the full standard class fare (and no standard class APEX tickets are available). Exceptionally, and subject to approval by your line manager before the journey takes place, you may also travel first class if:

- you have special needs that require you to travel first class
- there is a business need for you to travel with a colleague who may travel first class.

Valuation: Housing

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the priority given by district valuers to conducting valuations under section 128 of the Housing Act 1985 as compared to their other *(a)* statutory and *(b)* non-statutory functions. [131148]

Dawn Primarolo: District valuers are appointed by the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs under the Housing Act 1985 to deal with right to buy determinations and this is therefore known as statutory work. All statutory work is given equal priority. Deployment of district valuer staff on non-statutory work will reflect availability within normal fluctuations in demand.

Valuation: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many valuations were made under section 128 of the Housing Act 1985 by the district valuer in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire between 1 September 2005 and 1 February 2006. [130735]

Dawn Primarolo: Within the time frame 1 September 2005 and 1 February 2006, the numbers of determinations made by the District Valuer under section 128 of the Housing Act 1985 in each district of Lancashire is a follows:

	Number
Burnley	7
Chorley	7
Fylde	0
Hyndburn	11
Lancaster	3
Pendle	7
Preston	10
Ribble Valley	1
Rossendale	7
South Ribble	3
West Lancashire	9
Wyre	0

The total number of determinations in Lancashire is 65, of which one was in Ribble Valley.

VAT: Fraud

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he expects to complete the investigations into Missing Trader Intra-Community fraud; and if he will make a statement; [131613]

(2) whether extra resources have been transferred to Missing Trader Intra-Community fraud investigations in order to complete the checks within the appointed time limits. [131615]

Dawn Primarolo: In response to the rapid increase in: Missing Trader Intra-Community Fraud activity in late 2005 and early 2006, HM Revenue and Customs are actively checking a greater number of claims. Each case of verification is treated on its own merits and, given the extremely complex and highly sophisticated nature of the fraud, involving numerous cross-border transactions within and beyond the European Union as well as checks into a wide range of matters involving companies, their directors, financing and, of course, transactions and associations with other parties, the time taken to reach a decision is that required to fully establish the veracity of the claim. The setting of arbitrary time limits to complete investigations would be counterproductive to establishing the correctness of the transaction chains involved. The UK courts have, to date, supported HMRC's policy.

HMRC recognises the importance of VAT repayments to legitimate businesses and have deployed an additional 700 staff to ensure that verification of

these claims can be; carried out as effectively and efficiently as possible. Also if at any time during the verification they identify that part or the entire claim is unconnected to MTIC fraud and is otherwise valid, they will make prompt repayment of the amount.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many representations he has received from companies awaiting results of Missing Trader Intra-Community fraud checks regarding the effect on their financial position of the time taken to complete the checks. [131614]

Dawn Primarolo: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations on numerous subjects from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many notices of warning of legal proceedings if payment was not made were sent to individuals claiming tax credits who were in dispute with HM Revenue and Customs in each month from April 2003 to March 2007; and if he will make a statement. [128930]

Dawn Primarolo: It is HMRC's policy to suspend the recovery of overpayments while a dispute is being considered.

Widowed People: Taxation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that widowed lone parents receive for tax credit purposes the same disregard for their widows' pension as is received by divorcees for their maintenance payments. [125883]

Dawn Primarolo: The child and working tax credits are part of the tax system and tax credit entitlement is therefore generally based on all income of a tax year which is taken into account for income tax purposes. This includes taxable social security benefits such as widowed parent's allowance. Income which is exempt from income tax is disregarded for tax credits. In particular, maintenance received from a former spouse is disregarded to help lone parents in these circumstances to find and keep work and to encourage the payment of maintenance by the former spouse.

However, the widowed parent's allowance, together with some other income, already benefits from a £300 annual disregard which reduces the amount of such income which is taken into account for tax credit purposes.

Working Tax Credit

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons those without children and disabilities and under the age of 25 are ineligible to claim working tax credit. [131265]

Dawn Primarolo: The working tax credit provides financial support on top of earnings for households with low incomes, making sure that work pays. It was introduced to tackle poor work incentives and persistent poverty among working people, and to respond to family circumstances, targeting resources on those most in need.

The working tax credit recognises the difficulties that those with children face in combining work with family responsibilities and the difficulties that workers with a disability may face. Workers with neither children nor a disability, aged 25 or over, are entitled to the working tax credit provided they work at least 30 hours a week. Eligibility begins at this point because it is those aged 25 or over who are most likely to face poorer incentives to work or suffer persistent poverty in work.

Working Tax Credit: Dundee

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in Dundee West are eligible for the working tax credit; [131257]

(2) how many people in Dundee West *(a)* are eligible for and *(b)* claim the child tax credit; [131298]

(3) how many people in Dundee West claim the working tax credit. [131299]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers given to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1753W.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 16 April 2007

HOME DEPARTMENT

Ahmed Omar Maruf

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Ahmed Omar Maruf, Home Office Ref: A1043799, a constituent of the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, will receive a decision on his application for indefinite leave to remain following his in time application in August 2006. [119049]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 4 April 2007.

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many retailers were prosecuted for selling alcohol to under-age customers in each year for which figures are available. [130762]

Mr. Coaker: Information from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of retailers prosecuted for selling alcohol to minors, allowing sale to minors and wholesale sale to minors is shown in the following table.

The offence of sale of alcohol to a person under 18 can attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND). The offence was added to the PND scheme on the 1 November 2004, and there were 113 penalty notices issued for the offence in November and December of that year. 2,058 penalty notices were issued in 2005 and provisional data for January to June 2006 shows that a further 1,562 penalty notices were issued for the offence in that period.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selling alcohol to underage customers, England and Wales 1995-2005[1,2]

Offence description	*Principal statute*	*Year*	*Proceeded against*
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises	Licensing Act 1964 S.169 A & B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1	1995	198
		1996	231
		1997	214
		1998	310
		1999	204
		2000	130
		2001	155
		2002	168
		2003	604
		2004	836
		2005	1,044
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18	Licensing Act 1964 S.181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S.17	1995	—
		1996	—
		1997	1
		1998	1
		1999	1
		2000	2
		2001	3
		2002	2
		2003	12
		2004	5
		2005	11
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	Licensing Act 2003 S.146	2005[3]	29
Allowing of alcohol to person under 18	Licensing Act 2003 S.147	2005[3]	—

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Sections 146 and 147 of the 2003 Licensing Act only came into effect from 24 November 2005, so data prior to 2005 are not available.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Animal Experiments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's budget is for the reduction, replacement and refinement of animal experimentation. [130711]

Joan Ryan: We announced on 21 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 69WS, that the Home Office would transfer its budget for research into the reduction, replacement and refinement of animal experimentation (the 3Rs) to the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) once pre-existing commitments had been honoured. Accordingly, the Home Office contributed £35,000, £125,000 and £250,000 to the funding of the Centre in financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, respectively.

The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research is an independent organisation, funded by Government,

research councils and industry, reporting to the Minister for Science and Innovation, and provides a United Kingdom focus for the promotion, development and implementation of the 3Rs in animal research and testing. The centre funds high-quality 3Rs research and facilitates the exchange of information and ideas, the identification of knowledge gaps, and the translation of research findings into practice to benefit both animals and science.

Animal Experiments: Inspections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inspectors are employed to oversee animal experimentation; and if he will take steps to increase the number. [130691]

Joan Ryan: The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate assesses applications for animal experimentation licences and inspects licensed work and facilities where work under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is carried out. There are currently 28 inspectors based in offices at Cambridge, Dundee, London, Shrewsbury and Swindon. It remains our aim to achieve a complement of 33 inspectors in total. We have no plans for any further increase beyond this target figure at the present time.

Arms Trade: Saudi Arabia

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requests for information have been received by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Serious Fraud Office from the US Justice Department on the investigation into the Al Yamamah military contract. [126932]

Joan Ryan: Correspondence between the UK and other countries relating to such matters is by its very nature confidential in order to protect the integrity of any ongoing criminal investigation. It therefore follows that the Home Office can neither confirm nor deny that such requests have been received, considered or made by UK authorities.

Asylum

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seeker claims were not processed within eight weeks in the last year for which figures are available; and how long it took to process those claims. [128866]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 March 2007]:* The latest published figures show that 76 per cent.[1] of applications in the financial year 2005-06 had initial decisions made and served within two months, 84 per cent. within four months and 87 per cent. within six months.

Information on the timeliness of initial decisions is published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

[1] Source: A-CID database as at 15 January 2007. "Two months" is defined as 61 days; "four months" is defined as 122 days; "six months" is defined as 182 days.

Asylum: Children

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people seeking asylum in the UK as an unaccompanied child in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 who were the subject of an age dispute were subsequently found to be aged over 18 years. [130931]

Mr. Byrne: In 2005 there were 2,425 applications from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASCs) in which the age was disputed. As at 12 June 2006 the applicant's age was still recorded as disputed in 1,775 cases (cases may be resolved either if the applicant withdraws their claim to be a minor, or the Home Office receives credible evidence that the applicant is the age claimed).

Statistics on age disputed applications are published annually and figures for 2006 will be published in August 2007. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum: Custodial Treatment

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people seeking asylum are held in custody; and what the equivalent figure was for *(a)* March 2005 and *(b)* March 2004. [129791]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* Information on the numbers of asylum seekers who are held in custody is not held centrally and would not be available except at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in Northern Ireland are receiving help from the National Asylum Support Service. [127188]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on the support that the asylum seeker receives.

As at the end of December 2006, 175 asylum seekers were recorded as receiving asylum support in Northern Ireland. This figure excludes those asylum seekers who are living in Northern Ireland but are not receiving support from IND.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support from IND, broken down by Government office region and local authority, are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html. Further breakdowns, of those in receipt of support from IND, by parliamentary constituency are also available from the Library of the House.

British Nationality: Gurkhas

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former Gurkha soldiers *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were given British citizenship in each of the last 10 years. [130611]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not readily available and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

British Nationality: Nepal

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Nepalese citizens who had not served in the British Army *(a)* applied for British citizenship and *(b)* were granted British citizenship in each of the last 10 years. [130587]

Mr. Byrne: The information is not readily available and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Bronzefield Prison: Foreigners

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many convicted prisoners who served *(a)* all and *(b)* the final part of their sentence at HMP Bronzefield have continued to be detained there pending deportation since the prison opened; [128497]

(2) how many convicted prisoners who have completed their sentences are being held at HMP Bronzefield pending deportation; and on what date each such prisoner's sentence was completed. [128500]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information that would identify time-served foreign national prisoners generally or at a particular prison is not available except at disproportionate cost.

Crime

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged, *(c)* prosecuted, *(d)* found guilty and *(e)* given a custodial sentence in cases involving (i) domestic violence, (ii) rape, (iii) violence against the person and (iv) burglary in each police constabulary area in each year between 1997 and 2006. [126078]

Mr. McNulty: Information on arrests for offences of domestic violence and rape is not separately identified within the arrests collection held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The collection is based on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by main offence group.

Available information from 1999-2000 to 2004-05 (latest available) on persons arrested for violence against the person and burglary offences by police force area is too large to be included in the answer but I have arranged for a copy of the relevant table to be placed in the Library. Information on arrests for the other offence categories is not centrally held. Information on arrests for 2005-06 will be available later this year.

Information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts, sentenced, and sentenced to immediate custody for violence against the person, burglary and rape, for the years 1997-2005 (latest available), is too large to be included in the answer but I have arranged for a copy of the relevant table to be placed in the Library.

Although prosecutions for domestic violence cannot be separately identified from other offences of assault and violence against the person on the Court Proceedings Database, the CPS holds records of proceedings for domestic violence cases since the full implementation of the Compass Case Management System. The number of prosecutions for domestic violence cases completed in each of the 42 areas of the CPS in 2005 and in 2006, together with the number and the proportion of cases resulting in conviction and in an unsuccessful outcome is too large to be included in the answer but I have arranged for a copy of the relevant table to be placed in the Library.

The year-on-year increase in prosecutions for domestic violence, from 44,244 in 2005 to 56,411 in 2006, is believed to reflect both improved levels of reporting of these offences and improvements in the quality of CPS records.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* the total number of criminal offences, *(b)* the total number of criminal offences abolished and *(c)* the total number of criminal offences created in England and Wales was in each year between 1997 and 2006. [130818]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 778W.

Crime: Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* burglaries, *(b)* acts of violence against the person, *(c)* sexual offences, *(d)* instances of vehicle crime, *(e)* instances of property crime and *(f)* acts of vandalism there were in rural police force areas in each year since 1997. [130974]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is given in the tables.

Table 1: Numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas—1997

Police force area	*Offence*	*1997*
Cambridgeshire	Violence against the person	3,364
	Sexual offences	390
	Criminal damage	9,250
	Burglary	12,668
	Property crime	55,343
	Vehicle crime	15,344
Cumbria	Violence against the person	2,828
	Sexual offences	229
	Criminal damage	8,047
	Burglary	6,868

Table 1: Numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas—1997

Police force area	Offence	1997
	Property crime	32,224
	Vehicle crime	7,207
Devon and Cornwall	Violence against the person	6,549
	Sexual offences	808
	Criminal damage	15,232
	Burglary	20,017
	Property crime	85,692
	Vehicle crime	23,233
Durham	Violence against the person	1,924
	Sexual offences	341
	Criminal damage	10,518
	Burglary	12,209
	Property crime	44,514
	Vehicle crime	11,108
Dyfed-Powys	Violence against the person	2,132
	Sexual offences	337
	Criminal damage	4,497
	Burglary	2,590
	Property crime	14,722
	Vehicle crime	2,372
Gloucestershire	Violence against the person	1,456
	Sexual offences	240
	Criminal damage	6,158
	Burglary	11,559
	Property crime	44,990
	Vehicle crime	13,748
Lincolnshire	Violence against the person	3,051
	Sexual offences	329
	Criminal damage	7,145
	Burglary	10,551
	Property crime	39,163
	Vehicle crime	7,624
Norfolk	Violence against the person	2,889
	Sexual offences	487
	Criminal damage	9,782
	Burglary	10,935
	Property crime	49,038
	Vehicle crime	11,890
North Wales	Violence against the person	2,575
	Sexual offences	480
	Criminal damage	11,238
	Burglary	7,554
	Property crime	36,980
	Vehicle crime	7,911
North Yorkshire	Violence against the person	2,425
	Sexual offences	262
	Criminal damage	8,537
	Burglary	11,359
	Property crime	46,898
	Vehicle crime	11,721
Suffolk	Violence against the person	2,448
	Sexual offences	400
	Criminal damage	7,835
	Burglary	6,094
	Property crime	31,997
	Vehicle crime	6,687
West Mercia	Violence against the person	3,175
	Sexual offences	751
	Criminal damage	14,965
	Burglary	16,334
	Property crime	71,410
	Vehicle crime	18,924
Wiltshire	Violence against the person	2,373
	Sexual offences	355
	Criminal damage	5,722
	Burglary	6,361
	Property crime	29,727
	Vehicle crime	7,524

Note:
The defining of rural police force areas within England and Wales has been taken in accordance with the ACORN ('A Classification Of Residential Neighbourhoods') guidance as published in the Statistical Bulletin 01/02 'Rural Crime England and Wales'. Of the 13 forces given in the table, ACORN defines four of them as 'Most Rural' (Dyfed-Powys, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and North Wales), and nine of them as 'Less Rural' (Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Suffolk, West Mercia and Wiltshire).

Table 2: Numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas, 1998-99 to 2001-02

Police force area	Offence	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Cambridgeshire	Violence against the person	5,345	6,090	6,416	7,345
	Sexual offences	431	418	464	560
	Criminal damage	11,925	12,110	13,197	13,972
	Burglary	12,759	12,377	10,243	11,161
	Property crime	59,026	59,810	55,346	59,362
	Vehicle crime	13,233	12,443	11,348	12,745
Cumbria	Violence against the person	5,582	5,142	4,152	5,334
	Sexual offences	200	224	168	199

Table 2: Numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas, 1998-99 to 2001-02

Police force area	*Offence*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
	Criminal damage	8,405	8,943	8,922	10,129
	Burglary	5,812	5,455	4,782	4,942
	Property crime	32,109	30,395	27,117	30,254
	Vehicle crime	6,477	5,414	4,278	4,483
Devon and Cornwall	Violence against the person	11,758	12,479	11,992	12,434
	Sexual offences	876	936	911	960
	Criminal damage	17,722	18,490	18,284	19,875
	Burglary	17,808	17,307	15,606	15,257
	Property crime	92,381	91,288	84,823	82,186
	Vehicle crime	22,270	21,438	20,145	17,549
Durham	Violence against the person	4,955	5,397	5,180	6,410
	Sexual offences	243	251	238	333
	Criminal damage	11,122	10,654	10,375	13,018
	Burglary	10,135	9,083	7,626	8,864
	Property crime	42,891	40,886	37,128	42,340
	Vehicle crime	10,056	9,126	8,047	7,798
Dyfed-Powys	Violence against the person	4,680	5,519	5,424	5,517
	Sexual offences	317	292	304	292
	Criminal damage	4,497	4,417	4,571	4,949
	Burglary	2,615	2,072	1,978	2,122
	Property crime	16,216	14,999	14,788	14,928
	Vehicle crime	2,480	2,203	2,120	2,050
Gloucestershire	Violence against the person	3,230	4,240	4,998	4,695
	Sexual offences	344	323	348	267
	Criminal damage	6,570	7,990	9,087	9,264
	Burglary	10,111	9,308	7,809	8,468
	Property crime	42,676	44,221	42,221	43,128
	Vehicle crime	11,196	10,244	8,464	8,140
Lincolnshire	Violence against the person	4,239	3,866	3,743	4,812
	Sexual offences	393	325	281	414
	Criminal damage	7,728	8,391	9,078	11,282
	Burglary	10,257	10,719	9,583	9,592
	Property crime	40,036	40,302	39,261	42,565
	Vehicle crime	6,944	6,871	6,627	6,782
Norfolk	Violence against the person	5,461	6,382	5,777	6,021
	Sexual offences	508	415	364	509
	Criminal damage	10,393	10,978	11,481	13,065
	Burglary	10,154	10,243	9,450	9,043
	Property crime	48,725	50,132	49,168	50,355
	Vehicle crime	10,834	10,428	9,823	9,797
North Wales	Violence against the person	4,703	5,739	5,358	7,349
	Sexual offences	334	373	406	466
	Criminal damage	9,652	10,102	12,182	14,388
	Burglary	7,226	6,892	7,246	7,368
	Property crime	36,178	36,211	39,711	43,798
	Vehicle crime	7,254	7,501	7,186	7,661
North Yorkshire	Violence against the person	4,827	5,101	4,898	5,624

Table 2: Numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas, 1998-99 to 2001-02

Police force area	Offence	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
	Sexual offences	297	294	289	346
	Criminal damage	8,372	8,617	9,167	11,436
	Burglary	11,237	10,602	9,829	11,656
	Property crime	47,780	45,896	44,290	50,771
	Vehicle crime	9,641	8,596	7,585	8,171
Suffolk	Violence against the person	3,820	5,303	6,395	7,353
	Sexual offences	405	389	421	486
	Criminal damage	7,898	9,547	10,150	12,095
	Burglary	6,241	6,214	5,738	6,346
	Property crime	33,335	35,365	35,456	40,288
	Vehicle crime	6,446	6,501	6,291	6,915
West Mercia	Violence against the person	6,995	8,213	7,805	17,032
	Sexual offences	618	585	537	806
	Criminal damage	15,346	17,410	16,817	22,739
	Burglary	14,631	14,313	13,369	15,398
	Property crime	70,058	72,212	66,487	80,214
	Vehicle crime	16,174	15,743	13,218	13,061
Wiltshire	Violence against the person	4,390	4,519	4,515	4,379
	Sexual offences	404	358	334	378
	Criminal damage	6,644	7,151	7,452	8,374
	Burglary	6,129	5,718	5,043	5,824
	Property crime	31,511	31,701	30,047	32,191
	Vehicle crime	6,759	6,598	5,271	5,264

Notes:
1. The offence coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS). These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas, 2002-03 to 2005-06

Police force area	Offence	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Cambridgeshire	Violence against the person	12,574	13,663	13,358	10,158
	Sexual offences	694	736	766	799
	Criminal damage	16,153	16,534	16,227	14,680
	Burglary	12,775	10,257	8,501	8,217
	Property crime	68,968	62,777	56,949	52,888
	Vehicle crime	13,345	10,672	9,169	8,345
Cumbria	Violence against the person	5,725	6,874	9,195	9,250
	Sexual offences	214	293	337	358
	Criminal damage	10,304	11,629	12,858	13,648
	Burglary	4,895	4,613	4,274	3,460
	Property crime	30,054	30,570	31,712	30,877
	Vehicle crime	4,753	4,114	3,941	3,183
Devon and Cornwall	Violence against the person	23,722	25,969	28,334	25,305
	Sexual offences	1,149	1,336	1,564	1,527
	Criminal damage	26,883	30,116	31,021	31,274
	Burglary	15,700	14,024	14,012	12,519
	Property crime	99,564	97,289	97,128	91,231
	Vehicle crime	19,377	16,601	14,990	13,844
Durham	Violence against the person	7,711	6,565	7,028	9,899
	Sexual offences	341	362	397	694
	Criminal damage	14,067	14,244	15,176	16,322

Table 3: Numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas, 2002-03 to 2005-06

Police force area	*Offence*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
	Burglary	7,636	7,083	6,853	6,660
	Property crime	40,758	39,373	37,829	40,083
	Vehicle crime	7,446	7,073	5,503	6,086
Dyfed-Powys	Violence against the person	6,217	7,909	8,315	7,711
	Sexual offences	274	434	503	440
	Criminal damage	4,920	7,032	8,186	7,939
	Burglary	2,104	2,703	2,875	2,240
	Property crime	14,802	19,628	20,744	19,039
	Vehicle crime	2,028	2,325	2,331	1,869
Gloucestershire	Violence against the person	7,734	8,304	9,549	10,498
	Sexual offences	409	403	539	670
	Criminal damage	10,103	10,847	10,802	11,259
	Burglary	8,694	9,072	7,142	6,260
	Property crime	45,110	46,879	41,057	39,302
	Vehicle crime	7,740	8,407	6,759	5,698
Lincolnshire	Violence against the person	9,238	10,148	10,836	10,813
	Sexual offences	583	636	816	703
	Criminal damage	13,694	15,176	14,934	14,126
	Burglary	10,831	9,052	7,306	7,179
	Property crime	49,850	47,213	44,620	44,179
	Vehicle crime	7,857	6,503	5,907	5,819
Norfolk	Violence against the person	10,607	11,586	12,920	12,504
	Sexual offences	676	774	889	1,474
	Criminal damage	16,030	17,462	17,470	17,577
	Burglary	9,681	8,169	6,377	6,000
	Property crime	57,271	54,739	49,999	47,975
	Vehicle crime	10,739	8,396	6,291	5,389
North Wales	Violence against the person	11,472	10,979	12,027	12,374
	Sexual offences	555	569	666	628
	Criminal damage	17,079	17,036	15,093	14,663
	Burglary	8,534	7,301	5,023	4,472
	Property crime	50,250	47,526	38,456	34,441
	Vehicle crime	8,093	7,613	5,351	4,168
North Yorkshire	Violence against the person	8,108	9,610	12,072	11,491
	Sexual offences	448	502	557	637
	Criminal damage	13,168	14,732	13,610	12,758
	Burglary	11,511	11,062	7,767	7,332
	Property crime	56,026	58,530	46,495	44,080
	Vehicle crime	9,570	9,516	6,491	6,756
Suffolk	Violence against the person	7,949	9,529	10,347	10,017
	Sexual offences	588	641	620	664
	Criminal damage	11,497	12,817	12,781	13,067
	Burglary	6,248	6,396	5,090	5,292
	Property crime	38,969	40,143	38,098	38,947
	Vehicle crime	6,282	5,782	5,463	5,281
West Mercia	Violence against the person	19,848	21,868	18,179	15,699
	Sexual offences	923	949	1,139	1,014

Table 3: Numbers of offences recorded in rural police force areas, 2002-03 to 2005-06

Police force area	*Offence*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
	Criminal damage	21,258	23,615	21,962	20,563
	Burglary	16,375	15,015	12,424	11,066
	Property crime	80,028	79,599	71,479	64,217
	Vehicle crime	13,076	12,134	10,943	9,752
Wiltshire	Violence against the person	6,419	6,302	6,004	7,488
	Sexual offences	558	584	525	580
	Criminal damage	9,246	9,446	9,020	9,674
	Burglary	6,242	5,929	5,120	4,791
	Property crime	35,346	34,247	31,634	31,897
	Vehicle crime	5,551	5,450	4,945	4,349

Notes
1. The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002.
2. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
3. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

Crime: USA

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department had with the police departments of *(a)* Chicago, *(b)* New York and *(c)* Los Angeles on methods of countering street gangs and gang culture. [130055]

Mr. Coaker: The Strategic Criminal Use of Firearms Intelligence review was carried out in 2005 jointly by the Home Office Police Standards Unit (PSU) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Criminal Use of Firearms Group. This involved visits to New York, Boston and Washington, and discussions with Police Departments, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The PSU funded ACPO Criminal Use of Firearms Group also visited Washington to learn about gangs and gang culture in the USA. A representative of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) recently attended an ACPO Criminal Use of Firearms Intelligence Sub-Group meeting in the UK and presented details of the LAPD forensic approach to tackling gun crime involving gangs.

The current Director of the Home Office PSU Police and Crime Standards Directorate is Paul Evans, the former Commissioner of Boston Police, who has extensive experience of dealing with gun crime and gangs in the USA.

The learning from these visits and discussions with law enforcement personnel in other jurisdictions is incorporated into police control strategies.

Crime: Young People

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for *(a)* vehicle theft *(b)* theft and handling, *(c)* sexual offences, *(d)* robbery, *(e)* racially aggravated offences, *(f)* breach of public order, *(g)* (i) domestic and (ii) non-domestic burglary, *(h)* motoring offences, *(i)* fraud and forgery, *(j)* drug offences, *(k)* (i) death and (ii) injury by reckless driving, *(l)* criminal damage, *(m)* breach of (i) statutory order and (ii) bail, *(n)* arson and *(o)* violence against the person were brought against young people aged 18 years old and under that resulted in *(A)* acquittal and *(B)* conviction in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [126113]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Juveniles are defined in law as being aged 10-17 years of age and are subject to a separate sentencing framework to adults. In the interests of clarity 18 year olds, who are defined as adults, have therefore been excluded from this reply.

Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform for the number of prosecutions, convictions, and acquittals brought against young people aged 17 years and under for the years 2001 to 2005 in England and Wales for parts *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)*, *(d)*, *(e)*, *(f)* [for *(f)* see offence code 125 offence against public order], *(g)*, *(h)*, *(i)*, *(k)* (i) and (ii), *(l)*, *(m)* (ii) [for *(m)* (ii) please refer to offence 83 Failing to surrender to bail] can be found in table(s) A to P, which have been placed in the House Library.

Crimes of Violence

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition of common assault the police use for the purposes of arresting people for that offence. [129025]

Mr. McNulty: Common assault is committed when a person either assaults another person or commits a battery. An assault is committed when a person intentionally or recklessly causes another to apprehend the immediate infliction of unlawful force. A battery is committed when a person intentionally and recklessly applies unlawful force to another. The full definition applied by the police is set out in the legal guidance provided by the Crown Prosecution Service and available at:

http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/section5/chapter_c.html#06.

Crimes of Violence: Halifax

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the violent crime rate is in Halifax; and what it was in 1997. [130396]

Mr. Cooker: The number of offences for Halifax is recorded within the Calderdale Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). CDRPs were set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.The first period in which the total number of offences was recorded for each CDRP is 2001-02.

The available figures are given in the following table.

Number of violent crimes recorded for Calderdale CDRP, 2001-02 to 2005-06

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
All offences	25,168	26,044	27,626	20,991	22,118
Violent crime	2,158	3,336	5,168	4,824	5,643
Percentage of all offences which are violent crime	9	13	19	23	26

Notes:
Numbers of recorded crime were affected by changes in reporting and recording following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These data are therefore not comparable with earlier years.
Violent crime comprises violence against the person, sexual offences and robbery.

Custodial Treatment

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which *(a)* retailers, *(b)* shopping centres, *(c)* town centres and *(d)* local authorities have expressed an interest in having a short-term holding facility; [130047]

(2) what legal advice in relation to *(a)* employment and *(b)* safety in the workplace legislation he has received on the introduction of short-term holding facilities. [130048]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* The consultation paper "Modernising Police Powers: Review of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984" indicates that any short-term holding facility would be under the supervision of a custody officer. Under PACE, a custody officer is appointed by the chief officer for the force concerned for each designated police station. Therefore, we would anticipate that any facility would be under the control of the chief officer. The British Retail Consortium (BRC) believes that the proposal has merit and could help in the fight against rising levels of retail crime if used appropriately. We have had contact with retail outlets and the consultation exercise is seeking views on the appropriateness, use and process of designation of short-term holding facilities.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 144W, on departmental computers, how many computers *(a)* were stolen from his Department in 2006 and *(b)* have been stolen in 2007. [123694]

Mr. Byrne: In 2006, 19 computers were reported stolen from the Department. This number comprises 17 laptop computers, one PDA and one Blackberry.

Three computers have been reported stolen in 2007 to date. This number comprises two laptop computers and one Blackberry.

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128088]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* Home Office spending on advertising and promotional campaigns in 2004-05 and 2005-06 is set out in the following table. The cost of providing figures for earlier years would be disproportionate. Figures given are for media costs only and exclude VAT.

2004-05

£

Job. No.	Client	Campaign Title	Media Total (inc. VAT)	TV	Radio	Print
262599	Home	Drugs Advertising 2004-05	936,688	393,647	221,208	321,833
263090	Home	Gun Crime 2004-05	162,042	—	—	162,042
263385	Home	Acquisitive Crime Reduction 2004-05	6,962,794	3,366,681	771,571	1,924,542
263424	Home	Child Protection on the Internet 2004-05	124,285	—	112,919	11,366
263689	Home	Domestic Violence 2004-05	432,263	—	169,940	262,323
264879	Home	Anti-social Behaviour 2004-05	368,492	—	—	368,492
266073	Home	Police Specials recruitment 2004-05	1,885,559	1,001,000	238,364	646,195
266304	Home	Clean Up week 2004-05	25,722	—	—	25,722
	Home Office Total		9,997,845	4,761,328	1,514,002	3,722,515

2005-06

£

Job. No.	Client	Campaign Title	Media Total (inc. VAT)	TV	Radio	Print
268359	Home	Home Office Miscellaneous 2005-06	5,734	—	—	5,734
270915	Home	Child Protection on the Internet 2005-06	862,229	—	250,834	611,395
270917	Home	Anti-Social Behaviour 2005-06	396,475	—	—	396,475

2005-06

£

Job No	Client	Campaign Title	Media Total (inc. VAT)	TV	Radio	Print
270985	Home	Acquisitive Crime Reduction	4,085,297	2,535,453	596,528	953,316
272028	Home	Police Specials recruitment	1,389,166	555,600	347,402	486,164
272219	Home	Alcohol Misuse Enforcement 2005-06	115,255	—	—	115,255
273036	Home	Clean Up Campaign 2005-06	39,819	—	—	39,819
273211	Home	Domestic Violence 2005-06	534, 587	—	110,302	424,285
273212	Home	Car park security scheme	94,260	—	50,516	43,744
274136	Home	Crime Stoppers 2005-06	82,182	—	—	82,182
274234	Home	Police Higher Potential Development campaign	143,723	—	—	143,723
274637	Home	Rape 2005-06	66,153	—	66,153	—
	Home Office Total		7,814,880	3,091,053	1,421,735	3,302,092

Departments: Complaints

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff worked in dedicated complaints units in his Department and its Executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many have done so in 2006-07 to date. [121667]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not have any dedicated complaints units and does not hold any historic information on complaints units.

Departments: Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments his Department has made to Intellect in each of the last five years. [125937]

Mr. Byrne: The core Department including the Immigration and Nationality Department has no record of payments to Intellect. One of the Department's agencies, the Identity and Passport Service, has recorded four transactions totalling £2,255 plus VAT.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of monitoring the time spent processing requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the purposes of the proposed fees regulations. [121717]

Mr. Byrne: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary of the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 865W.

Departments: Golden Arrow

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meetings the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Criminal Justice System and Offender Management) has attended with representatives of *(a)* Golden Arrow and *(b)* Sovereign Strategy since taking office; and if he will make a statement. [131068]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Wimbledon (Stephen Hammond) on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1443W.

In addition, a review of my ministerial diary has indicated that I have not met with representatives of Sovereign Strategy in my official capacity since I became the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State.

On a general basis, Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice.

Departments: Logos

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has commissioned work on logos for *(a)* a Ministry for Justice and *(b)* other Home Affairs departments. [126190]

Mr. Byrne: Under the machinery of Government changes announced by the Prime Minister on 29 March, there are no plans currently to change the name or logo of the Home Office. Logos for the Ministry of Justice are a matter for the Department of Constitutional Affairs.

Departments: PFI

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of his Department's budget was taken up by private finance initiative commitments in each of the last 10 years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [125198]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not readily available and the cost of obtaining it would be disproportionate.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of his Department's budget will be taken up by private finance initiative commitments in each of the next 10 years assuming that the budget grows in line with the Treasury's estimates for gross domestic product over the period; and if he will make a statement. [125199]

Mr. Byrne: The Department's annual payments for private finance initiatives (PFI's) for the next 10 years are:

	Total (£000)
2006-07	51,658
2007-08	54,003
2008-09	55,932
2009-10	58,160
2010-11	58,024
2011-12	60,534
2012-13	60,975
2013-14	60,515
2014-15	63,076
2015-16	62,087

In relation to forecasting the percentage of the Department's budget to be taken up by PFI's for the next 10 years, HM Treasury has stated the following:

While the Treasury makes assumptions about GDP growth in the following decade, the comprehensive spending review is a fundamental assessment of public spending. It would clearly be inappropriate for Departments to forecast their settlements in advance of the review. Where Departments have already settled, the information is publicly available and accurate projections are in place.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings took place between Ministers in his Department and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date was of each such meeting. [131033]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by his Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130143]

Mr. Byrne: No former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 have been appointed to Home Office public bodies.

Departments: Surveys

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1505W, on Departments: surveys, if he will place in the Library the results of the monthly staff survey for *(a)* January and *(b)* February. [127882]

John Reid: The monthly staff survey is used for internal management information purposes.

There is no plan to place the results in the Library of the House.

Departments: Theft

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what items valued at above £100 were reported as stolen from his Department's buildings or premises in the last 12 months. [121977]

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of items stolen from his Department in 2006. [126077]

Mr. Byrne: The central Home Office and Immigration and Nationality Directorate reported thefts or losses for non-IT property in 2006 to the value of £250 in respect of postal orders.

The recorded number of stolen items of IT property for 2006 is 19. Because Home Office IT assets are supplied under managed service contracts, a specific cost cannot be attributed to each item without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Department has guidelines which should be followed in the event of a theft or loss. All reported thefts or losses are investigated and appropriate action is taken in the light of these investigations.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128756]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Deportation

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress he has made in effecting the deportation of Mr. Aleksandr Latsinnek since the Minister's letter to the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan of 21 December 2006; and if he will make a statement. [126020]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* It is not our policy to comment on individual cases.

Deportation: Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to monitor the treatment of returned asylum seekers deported from the UK in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [127847]

Mr. Byrne: We would not return people to a country where they had established that they were at real risk of ill-treatment on return and thus were in need of international protection. If specific allegations are made that any returnee has experienced ill-treatment on return from the UK, then these will be followed up through the FCO.

Deportation: Equatorial Guinea

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Equatorial Guinea is deemed a safe country to which to return failed asylum seekers; and if he will make a statement. [124693]

Mr. Byrne: We continuously monitor the political and human rights situation in all asylum intake countries including Equatorial Guinea through key governmental, non-governmental and other human rights organisations. Asylum decision-makers take into account the situation in the country of origin as it affects each asylum applicant when making a decision on an asylum claim. Individual claimants who have been found by both the Home Office and the Independent Appeals Process not to be in need of protection are expected to leave the UK.

If they do not leave voluntarily, they may have their return enforced.

Deportation: Zimbabwe

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had in 2007 regarding a change in status for enforcement of deportation to Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [129340]

Mr. Byrne: We are not currently enforcing removals to Zimbabwe pending the resolution of a test case relating to such removals. On 6 March the Court of Appeal found that, in reaching its determination that the enforced return of failed asylum-seekers to Zimbabwe does not put them at risk of mistreatment, the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal did not fully consider material parts of the evidence of two of the witnesses in this case and has asked the tribunal to look at that evidence again. We continue to expect those found by the asylum decision making and independent appeals process not to need international protection to return to Zimbabwe voluntarily.

Dispersal Orders: Cleveland

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dispersal orders were issued in each basic command unit covered by Cleveland police in each of the last three years. [130895]

Mr. McNulty: The numbers of dispersal orders made in the Cleveland police force area for the last three years is as follows:

	Number of dispersal orders
2004	1
2005	4
2006	5

Information is not collected centrally for which basic command unit these orders originated from.

Domestic Violence

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many domestic violence offenders have completed community rehabilitation orders without having *(a)* started and *(b)* completed the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme that was a condition of their sentence. [128838]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported incidents of domestic abuse there were in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency, *(b)* Tees Valley sub-region, *(c)* the North East region and *(d)* the UK in each of the last 10 years. [130901]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data for the number of reported incidents of domestic violence in the police force areas covering the North East region are available from 2001-02 (see table). Data for Cleveland are only available from 2003-04. Data are not available for Hartlepool constituency, the Tees Valley sub-region and England and Wales as a whole.

	Northumbria police force area	*Durham police force area*	*Cleveland police force area*	*Regional total*
2006-07	24,348	n/a	n/a	24,348
2005-06	22,964	8,170	12,493	43,627
2004-05	22,969	8,911	9,689	41,569
2003-04	22,424	8,262	9,892	40,578
2002-03	21,072	7,917	n/a	28,989
2001-02	20,845	7,551	n/a	28,396

Domestic Violence: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of domestic violence against *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* children were reported in each London borough in each of the last seven years. [130744]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not centrally available.

Driving Offences

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers were found guilty of driving *(a)* without insurance and *(b)* without a valid driving licence in each police force area in each of the last five years; and what the average penalty imposed in each police force was for such an offence in each year. [130046]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, from 2000 to 2004 (latest available) is provided in the tables.

2005 data will be available later this year.

Table A: Total findings of guilt and average penalty imposed at all courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 2000 to 2004

Number of offences

	2000		2001		2002	
	Findings of guilt	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine (£)*
Avon and Somerset	9,578	182	8,455	130	9,766	133
Bedfordshire	2,323	226	2,916	164	3,184	169
Cambridgeshire	2,226	182	1,989	119	2,298	118
Cheshire	4,110	211	3,927	149	4,600	153
Cleveland	3,597	179	3,643	167	4,325	173
Cumbria	2,699	265	2,906	152	2,888	151
Derbyshire	3,945	296	4,261	337	4,736	355
Devon and Cornwall	5,890	179	5,742	133	6,380	132
Dorset	3,548	261	2,986	121	3,388	114
Durham	4,338	160	4,361	118	4,632	122
Essex	5,356	123	5,417	101	5,401	104
Gloucestershire	2,548	240	2,692	91	2,297	86
Greater Manchester	24,020	232	26,600	152	27,805	151
Hampshire	7,578	136	7,677	119	8,135	122
Hertfordshire	3,332	204	3,691	155	4,214	166
Humberside	4,065	137	3,657	122	3,576	132
Kent	6,431	271	7,063	209	7,722	192
Lancashire	11,054	219	9,812	111	11,107	113
Leicestershire	6,752	254	6,849	134	7,435	135
Lincolnshire	3,321	188	2,970	133	3,070	134
London, City of	777	375	1,021	369	1,333	368
Merseyside	7,813	207	7,794	163	8,688	167
Metropolitan Police	20,247	169	22,677	139	27,307	140
Norfolk	2,851	210	3,040	99	3,610	107
Northamptonshire	2,998	280	1,643	280	913	339
Northumbria	9,430	144	9,251	130	9,364	135
North Yorkshire	2,572	211	2,216	130	2,124	136
Nottinghamshire	6,082	150	6,261	152	6,005	156
South Yorkshire	8,956	170	10,163	128	10,101	137
Staffordshire	6,760	198	4,723	152	5,764	163
Suffolk	2,330	183	2,387	128	2,862	138
Surrey	2,577	218	2,826	201	3,158	215
Sussex	3,808	167	4,016	118	3,730	117
Thames Valley	7,456	250	7,128	134	8,334	135
Warwickshire	2,316	188	2,672	156	2,395	168
West Mercia	5,542	263	5,766	176	5,858	180
West Midlands	18,010	201	18,221	169	22,202	192
West Yorkshire	15,649	209	15,934	120	14,043	123
Wiltshire	2,625	204	3,281	283	3,170	286
Dyfed-Powys	2,076	169	1,914	155	2,293	166
Gwent	3,808	208	3,836	148	3,676	154
North Wales	2,848	230	2,565	144	3,003	150
South Wales	10,335	188	9,809	159	11,607	173
England and Wales	264,577	203	266,758	150	288,499	155

	2003[2]		2004	
	Findings of guilt	*Average fine(£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine(£)*
Avon and Somerset	10,633	138	10,925	154
Bedfordshire	3,524	137	3,220	143
Cambridgeshire	2,728	131	2,678	152
Cheshire	5,414	167	5,412	179
Cleveland	4,017	171	5,124	189
Cumbria	2,868	159	2,762	169
Derbyshire	4,956	367	5,557	367
Devon and Cornwall	6,635	127	6,217	134
Dorset	4,276	125	3,634	158
Durham	4,535	121	4,065	116
Essex	5,487	112	5,368	164

	2003[2]		2004	
	Findings of guilt	*Average fine(£)*	*Findings of guilt*	*Average fine(£)*
Gloucestershire	2,599	133	2,451	147
Greater Manchester	29,826	157	26,939	167
Hampshire	8,148	124	7,509	131
Hertfordshire	5,099	181	5,801	198
Humberside	4,460	137	4,348	150
Kent	7,485	191	8,377	197
Lancashire	13,770	141	10,011	156
Leicestershire	8,114	138	7,822	150
Lincolnshire	4,298	148	4,781	179
London, City of	1,606	334	1,125	230
Merseyside	10,756	148	10,535	137

	2003		2004	
	Findings of guilt	Average fine (£)	Findings of guilt	Average fine (£)
Metropolitan Police	31,702	143	36,707	147
Norfolk	4,485	139	3,759	152
Northamptonshire	3,261	245	4,[illegible]	183
Northumbria	9,904	135	9,159	137
North Yorkshire	2,369	141	2,537	166
Nottinghamshire	7,750	152	7,833	188
South Yorkshire	9,965	146	8,571	125
Staffordshire	6,128	166	6,370	186
Suffolk	3,594	133	3,548	136
Surrey	2,900	221	2,604	197
Sussex	3,664	138	3,102	162
Thames Valley	9,759	158	9,208	198
Warwickshire	2,965	164	3,458	210
West Mercia	6,051	165	5,540	193
West Midlands	25,557	200	27,734	206
West Yorkshire	17,101	134	20,308	144
Wiltshire	3,022	280	2,794	200
Dyfed-Powys	2,243	172	1,650	187
Gwent	3,665	171	2,980	157
North Wales	4,542	149	4,797	154
South Wales	11,756	158	11,232	154
England and Wales	323,367	160	322,814	169

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143(2).
[2] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.
Note:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is underway to ensure that the magistrates courts' case management system currently being implemented by the Department for Constitutional Affairs reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers were prosecuted for driving without insurance in each year since 1990. [131123]

Mr. Coaker: Information on proceedings for 'using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks' can be found in the annual Home Office publication "Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary tables" (latest available covers 2004). Copies are available in the Library. The publication is available on the Research Development and Statistics (RDS) website.

The link to the publication on the main website is:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb0506supp.pdf

2005 data will be available later this year.

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average penalty imposed for the offence of drink driving in each police authority was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [128918]

Mr. Coaker: Available information taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, for 2004 (latest available) is given in the following table.

Data for 2005 will be available later in the year.

Court imposed maximum, minimum and average fine for driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 2004

Rounded

Police force area	Total number of fines	Of which the maximum fine given (£)	Of which the minimum fine given (£)	Average fine[2] (£)
Avon and Somerset	2,900	1,200	25	180
Bedfordshire	700	800	20	200
Cambridgeshire	800	1,000	30	200
Cheshire	1,600	1,000	[3]10	200
Cleveland	600	1,000	25	210
Cumbria	600	350	30	190
Derbyshire	1,200	2,000	[3]10	320
Devon and Cornwall	1,800	2,000	[3]10	200
Dorset	900	1,200	30	210
Durham	800	750	[3]10	170
Essex	1,700	1,200	20	200
Gloucestershire	700	1,500	[3]10	170
Greater Manchester	3,100	2,500	[3]10	200
Hampshire	2,600	4,000	[3]10	190
Hertfordshire	1,300	2,000	[3]10	230
Humberside	1,100	1,500	50	210
Kent	2,200	2,500	20	250
Lancashire	1,900	2,000	20	210
Leicestershire	1,100	1,000	[3]10	200
Lincolnshire	900	1,500	60	200
London, City of	100	1,500	[3]10	250
Merseyside	1,700	4,500	15	190
Metropolitan Police	9,500	5,000	10	260
Norfolk	900	1,200	[3]10	190
Northamptonshire	600	2,500	30	250
Northumbria	1,800	2,000	30	190
North Yorkshire	800	2,500	10	210
Nottinghamshire	1,000	2,000	25	260
South Yorkshire	1,500	1,500	10	190
Staffordshire	1,200	2,500	25	220
Suffolk	900	3,000	20	230
Surrey	1,100	2,000	10	240
Sussex	1,600	2,500	[3]10	210
Thames Valley	2,500	4,000	30	260
Warwickshire	600	1,000	[3]10	230
West Mercia	1,200	2,000	[3]10	230
West Midlands	3,800	2,000	[3]10	220
West Yorkshire	2,600	3,000	[3]10	170
Wiltshire	800	1,500	30	260
Dyfed-Powys	700	2,000	25	210
Gwent	800	1,500	30	200
North Wales	1,000	1,000	[3]10	180
South Wales	1,900	2,500	35	210

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) and (2); 5 (1) and (b); 6 (4); 7 (6) and s7A as added by Police Reform Act 2006 s56.
[2] Rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] Or less.
Notes:
1. Standard Rate maximum fine is Level 5 (£5,000)
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Department for Constitutional Affairs reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Drugs: Bridgend

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were convicted of drug offences in Bridgend in each of the last five years; [127640]

(2) how many people in Bridgend were prosecuted for drug dealing in the last 12 months; and how many of those prosecutions arose as a result of Operation Crackdown. [127641]

Mr. Coaker: Data on persons found guilty for drug offences under the Misuse of Drugs ACT 1971 at Bridgend courts from 2001 up to and including 2005 are given in the table.

21 people were found guilty under the act for drug dealing offences in Bridgend in 2005. It is not centrally possible to determine which of these were as the result of Operation Crackdown.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, police forces and other agencies. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Persons found guilty of drug offences[1], Bridgend courts, 2001 to 2005

	Number of persons
2001	169
2002	205
2003	198
2004	183
2005	141

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis. They relate to convictions at Bridgend magistrates and youth courts together with those involving the Crown Court that resulted from a committal at Bridgend.

Drugs: Rehabilitation Centres

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many beds exist in drug residential rehabilitation centres; how many such places are occupied by convicted offenders; and if he will provide increased funding for such beds. [130344]

Mr. Coaker: Nationally, there are around 120 drug and alcohol residential rehabilitation services in the community with approximately 3,000 bed spaces.

Offenders can access residential drug treatment as part of a Community Order with a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR)/Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO) or post-custodial licence, where assessed as suitable on an individual basis by a qualified professional. Figures relating to the number of these beds which are occupied by convicted defendants are not held centrally.

The main source of funding for treatment is the Pooled Treatment Budget for substance misuse (PTB). The national PTB for 2006-07 is £385 million. This is 28 per cent. more than the previous year. The PTB in 2007-08 will be a record £398 million which will be nearly three times greater than the original PTB created in 2001-02 (£142 million). Additionally, in February 2007, the Government allocated £54 million for the development of in-patient and residential rehabilitation substance.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will increase the number of beds in residential drug rehabilitation centres. [130346]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The Department of Health announced the allocation of £54.3 million to support increases in the capacity and improved outcomes for residential and in-patient drug and alcohol services on 23 February 2007.

£16,757,700 is recommended for spend within the residential rehabilitation sector providing an additional 142 units of residential rehabilitation provision plus improved service quality through refurbishments and improved access for disabled users and families.

Drugs: Testing

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will introduce *(a)* mandatory daily drug testing and *(b)* random drug testing for those defendants subject to a drug rehabilitation requirement under the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [130345]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is already provision under section 209(1)(b) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 for the drug testing of offenders subject to a drug rehabilitation requirement of a community order or suspended sentence order.

The frequency of testing, which we consider to be cost effective, is prescribed within National Standards: 2005 which require that:

'Offenders must be tested (and the results recorded) at least twice per week during the first 16 weeks of the requirement, which may be reduced to once per week thereafter if the offender manager evidences that sufficient progress has been made. Where an offender is at the lowest level of the community sentence band drug testing should be at a minimum frequency, of once per week during the first 16 weeks of the requirement. In addition, where an offender is in residential rehabilitation drug testing may be at a minimum frequency of once per week for the first 16 weeks of the requirement.'

Electronic Tagging

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed in each of the last five years by offenders wearing electronic tags; and if he will make a statement. [124142]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Over 137,000 offenders have been released on the Home Detention Curfew scheme from its inception in January 1999 to the end of February 2007.

The following table sets out the number of offenders, who have been cautioned, convicted or are awaiting prosecution for offences while they were subject to the home detention curfew scheme, as currently notified to the National Offender Management Service. It also gives a breakdown of the number of offences committed.

	Number of offenders cautioned, convicted or awaiting prosecution for an offence committed while they were subject to the home detention curfew scheme	*Total number of offences committed, or allegedly committed by the offenders*
1999	71	131
1999-2000	294	595
2000-01	244	392
2001-02	208	392
2002-03	584	1,071
2003-04	298	2,272
2004-05	1,311	2,155
2005-06	1,214	1,982

Some of those awaiting prosecution will be acquitted or have their charges dropped.

Information on further convictions for offenders subject to other electronic monitoring schemes apart from home detention curfew is not held centrally.

Entry Clearances

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Yousef Ahmedali HO ref: A1142900, a constituent of the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, will receive notice of a decision on his case. [124884]

Mr. Byrne: The immigration and nationality directorate wrote to my hon. Friend on 15 March with the information requested.

Female Genital Mutilation

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessments he has *(a)* made and *(b)* published on the effectiveness of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 since the Act was passed. [130521]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Anecdotal evidence suggests that the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 has had some deterrent effect, but this is not something that can be measured. There have so far been no prosecutions under the Act but educating communities to abandon the practice is the best way forward to break the cycle of mutilation and the Act is being widely used for that purpose.

Firearms: Crime

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many gun crimes were committed in each of the last 10 years with *(a)* legally registered weapons and *(b)* illegally held weapons. [125072]

Mr. McNulty: The requested data are not in a form suitable for publication.

Firearms: Licensing

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Police Firearms Licensing Management System is *(a)* on time and *(b)* on budget. [130830]

John Reid: The introduction of the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) to all 43 forces in England and Wales was completed ahead of schedule on 26 March 2007.

The PNC link between NFLMS and PNC will be switched on as soon as forces have had an opportunity to complete the necessary data cleansing exercise identified during earlier pilots.

The budget allocated to NFLMS for the financial year ending 31 March 2007 was £2.5 million and included development costs, support to forces for data cleansing and capital recharges.

Expenditure to date (from 1 April 2006 to 30 March 2007) before accruals (invoices not yet received for work already carried out) is approximately £2.3 million.

Fraud: Credit Cards

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce the risk of credit card fraud. [130893]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are determined to tackle the problem of fraud, whether the victim is a multi-million pound organisation or a single individual and work closely with business and the police to introduce ways of preventing fraud. Recently published figures from APACS (the UK Payments Association) show that losses from plastic card fraud fell by 3 per cent. in 2006 compared with 2005.

A great deal of fraud can be prevented if organisations have proper fraud prevention measures in place and if individuals protect their cards and financial details. Prevention initiatives complement fraud investigation and prosecution. The Home Office therefore supports fraud prevention initiatives being introduced by the finance and retail sectors including Chip and PIN and other technical solutions.

The Home Office provides extra funds to the City of London Police to expand its economic crime department. In addition to taking on a lead force role for tackling fraud across London and the South East the force hosts Operation Halo, the National Cheque and Plastic Card intelligence database. Dedicated officers link up with financial service industry and other police forces. This ensures that intelligence is analysed and assessed in quick time, allowing operational action to be taken.

The Government publish fraud prevention advice on the Home Office and Consumer Direct websites and the Home Office maintains two websites to combat fraud. The 'e-tailing mini site' forms part of the crime reduction website and provides information to help both consumers and businesses protect themselves when buying and selling over the internet. The fraud mini site which is also part of the crime reduction

website deals with fraud more generally and provides information for police and crime reduction practitioners, for businesses and for consumers. The Home Office has also published (jointly with the banking industry) a card fraud prevention leaflet that contains useful advice for members of the public. The leaflet was distributed to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Crime Prevention Officers in all police forces in England and Wales. The leaflet is also available on the Home Office website.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of credit card fraud were committed in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency and *(b)* Tees Valley sub-region in each of the last 10 years. [130894]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to crimes recorded by the police in the Hartlepool Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). At this level, figures for cheque and credit card fraud are available from 2001-02.

The available figures are given in the following table.

Statistics for the Tees Valley sub-region are not available.

Offences of cheque and credit card fraud in Hartlepool CDRP

	Number of offences
2001-02	61
2002-03[1]	63
2003-04	55
2004-05	95
2005-06	76

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Highly Skilled Migrant Programme: Medicine

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on international medical graduates who entered the United Kingdom as part of the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme; and if he will make a statement. [126408]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Secretary has regular discussions with the Secretary of State for Health about immigration and other issues.

Homicide

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to tackle honour killings. [130207]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Police Standards Unit in the Home Office has been working closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and National Centre for Policing Excellence (NCPE) to raise the awareness of police officers and staff in relation to the identification and investigation of honour related violence, and developed a risk assessment toolkit for domestic violence incidents which includes the presence of factors in relation of honour crimes. Guidance on Investigating Domestic Violence, produced on behalf of ACPO and CENTREX, the national police training provider, in 2004, contains guidance on investigating cases that may be committed in the name of honour. In October and November 2006 the Attorney-General and Baroness Scotland jointly hosted two seminars on honour killings with community leaders. The Government will shortly be re-launching the national Honour-Based Violence/Forced Marriage Working Group, to bring together a wide range of statutory agencies, Government Departments and NGOs.

Internationally, the UK and Turkey jointly presented the 2004 UN General Assembly Resolution on Working Towards the Elimination of Crimes Against Women and Girls in the Name of Honour.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1751-52W, on human trafficking, how many of those charged with offences relating to the trafficking of people in 2005 were *(a)* convicted and *(b)* foreign nationals. [127380]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 March 2007]*: Information on charging and the outcome of charging is not held within the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

From data on the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, the following table shows the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for various offences relating to trafficking of people in England and Wales, 2005.

These data are not related to data previously provided by the Crown Prosecution Services (CPS) for PQ 122478 answered 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1751-52W. The court proceedings database does not hold data on the nationality of the defendant.

The figures previously provided in PQ 122478 refer to the number of offences charged that reach a first hearing. This is different from the number of persons proceeded against and is based on the principal offence only. Hence CPS figures for charging will be higher than our figures for proceeded against, and found guilty.

The CPS does not hold any information on the outcome of proceedings at specific offence level, only a count of the number of offences falling under specific acts and sections of Acts.

CPS systems do not include an analysis of the nationality of defendants.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for various offences relating to trafficking of people in England and Wales, 2005[1,2,3]

Statute	*Offence description*	*Prosecuted*	*Found guilty*
Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.57	Arrange/facilitate arrival into the UK of a person for sexual exploitation (Trafficking)	10	9
Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.58	Arrange/facilitate travel within the UK of a person for sexual exploitation (Trafficking)	16	3
Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.59	Arrange/facilitate departure from the UK of a person for sexual exploitation (Trafficking)	0	0

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for various offences relating to trafficking of people in England and Wales, 2005[1,2]

Statute	Offence description	Prosecuted	Found guilty
Immigration Act 1971 sec. 25(1)(a)	Knowingly concerned in making or carrying out arrangements for securing or facilitating the entry into the UK of anyone whom he knows or has reasonable cause for believing to be an illegal entrant	4	84
Immigration Act 1971 sec. 25(1)(b) as added by Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 s.5	Knowingly concerned in making or carrying out arrangements for securing or facilitating the entry into the UK of anyone whom he knows or has reasonable cause for believing to be an asylum claimant	0	3
Immigration Act 1971 s25 as added by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 s143	Assisting unlawful immigration to member state (was 1994/11 and 12)	99	55
Immigration Act 1971 s25A as added by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 s143	Helping asylum-seeker to enter the UK	15	7
Immigration Act 1971 s25B as added by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 s143	Assisting entry to UK in breach of deportation order or exclusion order	5	2
Immigration Act, 1971 sec. 25(2)	Knowingly harbouring an illegal entrant (or person believed to be an illegal entrant)	1	1
Immigration Act 1971 sec. 25(2)	Knowingly harbouring a non citizen who has remained in UK beyond the time allowed or has failed to observe a condition of the leave	1	1
Total		131	165

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
[3] Prosecutions are counted by date of final outcome in the magistrates court. Guilty figures are counted by the date of sentence in both magistrates courts and Crown Courts. Hence guilty figures can exceed prosecutions where they reflect cases of people being found guilty in the magistrates court and committed for sentence to the Crown Court, the two events being counted in two different years.

Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will bring forward proposals to establish a UK Commissioner on Human Trafficking. [127927]

Mr. Coaker: We recognise the need for a more formalised identification and referral procedure and a referral mechanism will be developed as part of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention. Further consideration will need to be given as to the most suitable structure and agency for operating this process. The model adopted will take into account existing best practice and the need to tailor any system to suit the national circumstances of the United Kingdom.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many beds are provided by the Poppy Project; and what the percentage occupancy figures were for these beds in each of the last six months. [128518]

Mr. Coaker: The Government fund the Poppy project to provide an outreach service and 35 bed-spaces, of which 25 are crisis intensive support places and 10 are resettlement places. Women who apply for asylum continue to be supported by the Poppy project but are accommodated by the National Asylum Support Service. This helps to free crisis spaces for new referrals.

Additionally, there are a number of independently funded voluntary organisations that are able to accommodate and support victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The Government published a UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking on 23 March 2007. This outlines a range of measures to help improve the identification and referral of victims.

The table details the bed-space occupancy figures for the Poppy project in the last six months.

Percentage of Poppy project bed-spaces occupied in the last six months

	Percentage of bed-spaces occupied (out of 35)
September 2006	42
October 2006	49
November 2006	49
December 2006	37
January 2007	40
February 2007	51

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister expects the UK to ratify the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings. [130320]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The Home Secretary signed the Council of Europe Convention on 26 March and we are now beginning to develop details on how implementation will be taken forward.

It will inevitably take some time to move from signature to ratification of the Convention. Unlike some of our Council of Europe colleagues the UK will not ratify the Convention until all changes to domestic legislation, processes and guidance are in place to ensure that we fully comply with its terms.

Human Trafficking: Wales

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of people trafficked into Wales in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [127928]

Mr. Coaker: We are not fully aware of the extent and nature of trafficking into the United Kingdom.

Home Office research suggests that in 2003 in the United Kingdom there were approximately 4,000 women who were victims of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation. There are no available regionalised figures, however the initial findings from Operation Pentameter suggest that the problem is not confined solely to England as the recent case at Cardiff Crown indicates.

As stated in the UK's Action Plan on tackling Human Trafficking, copies of which I have placed in the Library of the House, we intend to carry out further research to establish the scale and extent of the problem within our borders in relation to trafficking both for sexual and non-sexual purposes.

Hunting: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hunts in Yorkshire have been prosecuted for breaking the law since the hunting with dogs ban was introduced. [130407]

Mr. McNulty: The Hunting Act 2004 came into effect on 18 February 2005.

Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice reform show that there were no prosecutions in Yorkshire police force area for hunting a wild mammal with a dog under the Hunting Act 2004 Sections 1 and 6.

Identity Cards

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 987W, on identity cards, what charges will be made for verification through the Employer Verification Service; and what the features will be of the proposed enhanced service. [127881]

John Reid: Employers are not being charged for the Employer Verification Service during the initial development period.

We are engaging with organisations in the piloting of the service. Through this activity, and through planned market research, we will identify what enhancements employers would like to see from any future services and what would benefit them. We will continue to keep this matter under review.

Identity Cards: Newspaper Press

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to how many local papers Ministers in his Department have written on identity cards; and at what cost. [129659]

Joan Ryan: I, or Ministerial colleagues, have written 56 letters to local newspapers since 14 November 2006, including letters that may have been printed in more than one local publication that forms part of a larger newspaper group. These letters have clarified the Government's proposals for introducing interviews for first-time passport applicants together with the plans for the National Identity Scheme, including identity cards. They have been in response to a number of local press articles or letters to the newspapers' editors. The cost has not been separately identified as it forms part of our routine work.

Illegal Immigrants

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were taken into police custody in England and Wales suspected of being illegal immigrants during January 2007. [123961]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested regarding the immigration status of all those arrested is not collated centrally by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Records are not broken down by police force and therefore an answer to this question could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Illegal Immigrants: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who are living in Northern Ireland illegally; how many were so living in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement on the steps being taken by his Department to reduce the number. [125063]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 March 2007]:* As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, no Government have been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, illegally, and that remains the case.

Illegal Immigrants: Prostitution

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of female illegal immigrants being forced to work in the sex industry in *(a)* England and *(b)* Lancashire. [127099]

Mr. Coaker: Given the nature of problem it is difficult to estimate the extent and scale to which this crime takes place into, and within, the UK.

Home Office research suggests that in 2003 in the United Kingdom there were approximately 4,000 women who were victims of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Of these it is not known how many entered the UK illegally but intelligence suggests that many victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation enter the country legally. There are no available regionalised figures. However, the initial findings from Operation Pentameter suggest that the problem is not confined to solely the major conurbations.

As stated in the UK's Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking, copies of which I have placed in the Library of the House, we intend to carry out further research to establish the scale and extent of the problem within our borders.

Immigrants: Detention Centres

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children of failed asylum applicants are held in immigration detention centres; and what the equivalent figure was for *(a)* March 2006 and *(b)* March 2005. [129794]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* Statistics are published showing the number of people detained solely under Immigration Act powers on the last Saturday of each quarter.

As at 26 March 2005, there were 40 asylum applicants, including dependants, recorded as being under 18, detained solely under Immigration Act powers. As at 25 March 2006, there were 50 asylum applicants, including dependants, recorded as being under 18, detained solely under Immigration Act powers. These figures are rounded to the nearest five.

The number of children detained with their families solely under Immigration Act powers will change from day to day. However, internal management information shows that, as at 22 March 2007 there were 67 minors detained with their families solely under Immigration Act powers. This figure includes asylum applicants and non-asylum cases. This figure does not constitute part of National Statistics as it is based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional.

It is not possible to identify, within three figures, which stage of the asylum process a person has reached when detained; this information would be available by examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost. The decision to detain is made on a case by case basis and may be appropriate in one or more of the following circumstances: to effect removal; while a person's identity and basis of claim are established; where a person presents a risk of absconding or where an asylum application is capable of being decided quickly.

Minors are detained only in two limited circumstances: first, as part of a family group whose detention is considered appropriate; second, when unaccompanied, while alternative care arrangements are made and normally just overnight. While the detention of families with children is very regrettable, it nevertheless remains necessary in appropriate cases in order to maintain an effective immigration control and to tackle abuses of the asylum system.

Information on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers is published in the Quarterly Asylum Bulletins, on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Immigrants: Employment

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Treasury on allowing immigrants the right to work while awaiting a decision on their immigration status. [128730]

Mr. Byrne: There have been no discussions with the Treasury about allowing those awaiting a decision on their immigration or asylum applications to work.

Immigrants: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people suspected of being in the United Kingdom illegally have been taken into custody by each of the police forces in Wales since April 2006. [123875]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 February 2007]:* The information requested regarding the immigration status of all those arrested is not collated centrally by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Records are not broken down by police force and therefore an answer to this question could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons taken into custody by the police forces in Wales as suspected illegal immigrants have been released on Immigration Service instructions and failed to report to the destination indicated by the immigration services since April 2006. [123877]

Mr. Byrne: Current management information systems cannot provide comprehensive information: this is made more difficult if an unverifiable identity is given at the time of arrest.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department were first made aware of the case of the five men in North Wales whom the Immigration and Nationality Directorate office in Liverpool instructed to be released; and what actions he took in consequence; [123879]

(2) whether the five individuals apprehended by North Wales Police and then released on Immigration and Nationality Directorate instructions to attend the Liverpool offices reported to those offices or any other immigration facility. [123876]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 27 February 2007]:* I wrote to the chief constable of North Wales on 9 March about the incident and have asked the heads of Enforcement and Removals to meet with him to discuss arrangements between the Border and Immigration Agency and North Wales Police and discuss how the response to such events can be strengthened. This meeting is scheduled to take place later in the month.

The recently published enforcement strategy "Enforcing the Rules" also announced an increase in resources to position enforcement officers in a number of police centres around the UK to help improve how these referrals are handled.

Immigration

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a decision will be taken on the immigration status of Hussein Mohammed Abdillahi, reference A572376. [102486]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 3 April 2007.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to introduce each tier of the points-based system for managed migration. [126439]

John Reid: The points-based system will be introduced in line with the dates already announced in the IND review, i.e. April 2008 for highly skilled migrants (referred to as Tier 1) and April 2009 for other tiers applying to skilled workers, students, youth mobility and temporary workers.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to determine the application of Tahsin Taha Mohammad Ali (reference A1148096) for indefinite leave to remain in the UK. [128996]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to my hon. Friend on 22 March 2007 explaining the details in this case.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people applied for compensation from the immigration and nationality directorate in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and in how many cases compensation was paid consequently; [112232]

(2) how many applications from individuals for compensation from the immigration and nationality directorate are under consideration; [112233]

(3) how many compensation payments of *(a)* less than £500, *(b)* between £501 and £1,000, *(c)* between £1,001 and £2,000 and *(d)* more than £2,000 were paid by the immigration and nationality directorate in the most recent year for which figures are available. [112234]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member with the available information and with apologies for the delay in providing this on 20 March.

Immigration Cases

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has forwarded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the decisions of the Immigration Judge on 23 May and of the Tribunal on 18 August (reference OA/17132/2005) in the case of Mr. W. G. of Pakistan, husband of Mrs. A. M. of Aylesbury; and if he will make a statement. [107367]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 3 April 2007.

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mobile telephone numbers of people given temporary leave to remain were held by his Department as of 28 February. [127286]

Mr. Byrne: In order to make it easier for people who come here legally to comply with the rules, IND plans to increase the level of proactive contact with individuals with limited leave to come to Britain, for example by using proactive phone calls and text messaging to people whose visas are about to expire.

We will be able to use both fixed and mobile phone numbers to send text messages to individuals and initial data retrieval indicates that we have around 200,000 telephone numbers for people given temporary leave to remain.

In relation to failed asylum seekers, the New Asylum Model (NAM) involves an assigned IND caseworker having daily/weekly contact with asylum applicants either in person or over the telephone. This vigorous contact management approach will ensure that regular contact is maintained with the asylum applicant throughout the whole asylum process.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mobile telephone numbers of failed asylum seekers were held by his Department as of 28 February. [127287]

Mr. Byrne: In relation to failed asylum seekers, the New Asylum Model (NAM) involves an assigned IND caseworker having daily/weekly contact with asylum applicants either in person or over the telephone. This vigorous contact management approach will ensure that regular contact is maintained with the asylum applicant throughout the whole asylum process.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations he consulted before setting up the Employers' Task Force on the points based system of immigration control. [128527]

Mr. Byrne: Prior to establishing the Employer Taskforce we consulted with the Confederation for British Industry, British Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses, Recruitment and Employment Confederation, the DTI and the Treasury on the membership of the Taskforce. Based on their advice, membership has been drawn from a cross section of employers, both large and small, who employ migrant workers, have an interest in working in partnership with the Home Office to shape migration policy and who can represent the interests of all employers.

Membership is regularly reviewed and supplemented with bilateral and other meetings with interested bodies.

Immigration Controls: Fishguard

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on which occasions since 2005 officials from the Immigration and Nationality Directorate have carried out checks at the ports of *(a)* Fishguard and *(b)* Pembroke Dock. [125264]

(2) how many Immigration and Nationality Directorate personnel are located at the ports of *(a)* Fishguard and *(b)* Pembroke Dock. [125269]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 5 March 2007]:* This information cannot be disclosed as this could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent immigration controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of immigration offences.

Immigration Controls: Irish Republic

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on what date he was informed by the Irish Government of the suspension of the provisions of the Common Travel Area at Irish airports; [128864]

(2) what representations he has made to the Irish Government on *(a)* the suspension of the provisions of the Common Travel Area at Irish airports and *(b)* the systematic requests made by the Irish authorities of passengers arriving at Irish airports from the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands to produce passports; [128865]

(3) how many people entering the United Kingdom from the Irish Republic in 2006 by *(a)* land, *(b)* sea and *(c)* air were asked to produce passports or other identity documents. [128784]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 21 March 2007]:* As the Common Travel Area (CTA) is not the result of a treaty or law, it is subject to change (by either side) without negotiation. UK Home Office officials were made aware, in advance, of the introduction of ID checks at Irish airports from 28 June 1997.

The police service, who carry out selective enforcement and security operations on people entering the United Kingdom from the Irish Republic, retain no central records of the volume of passengers asked to show travel documents.

UK and Irish officials regularly meet to discuss practical arrangements within the Common Travel Area and any proposed changes to these arrangements by either side.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for differences in the average cost of detaining individuals for one week in different immigration and removal centres. [127211]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The difference in the average cost of detaining an individual in different immigration removal centres reflects the differences between the centres, and the market-place at the time of tender. The key differences between the centres are the design, age and location of the buildings and the specific services and facilities that the centres provide.

Immigration: India

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Indian nationals have been detained at Oakington removal centre in the last 12 months; what the longest period of detention is of one of those nationals; how many Indian nationals have been detained for longer than *(a)* six months and *(b)* three months; and if he will make a statement. [124145]

Mr. Byrne: The accompanying table shows the number of Indian nationals detained in Oakington Reception Centre solely under Immigration Act powers as at the last Saturday of the first three quarters of 2006, broken down by length of detention. Information relating to persons detained as at 30 December 2006 broken down by length of detention is not available due to a change in the system in which detention information is collected.

Information on the number of persons recorded as leaving Oakington Reception Centre solely under Immigration Act powers, which would provide details on the longest period of detention, is not available. Oakington data are centrally recorded only on one day per week. This enables snapshots of statistics for Oakington to be published but is not sufficient for published statistics relating to persons leaving detention solely under Immigration Act powers.

Information on the number of persons detained solely under Immigration Act powers is published in the Quarterly Asylum Bulletins, on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Indian nationals recorded as being detained in Oakington Reception Centre solely under Immigration Act powers, by length of detention[1]

Number of persons

Length of detention[2,3]	*Detained as at:* 25 March 2006	24 June 2006	30 September 2006	30 December 2006
7 days or less	—	10	5	n/a
8 to 14 days	5	5	10	n/a
15 to 29 days	5	50	10	n/a
1 month to less than 2 months	—	5	*	n/a
2 months to less than 3 months	—	—	5	n/a
3 months to less than 4 months	—	*	*	n/a
4 months to less than 6 months	—	5	15	n/a
6 months to less than 1 year	—	*	*	n/a
1 year or more	—	—	—	n/a
Total	10	80	45	30

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5, with * = 1 or 2, may not sum due to immigration powers.
[2] Relates to current period of detention only.
[3] 2months is defined as 61 days; 4 months is defined as 122 days; 6 months is defined as 182 days.
Note:
n/a = Figures not available.

Immigration: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff are employed by his Department and its agencies as immigration officers at *(a)* Bristol International airport, *(b)* Shoreham (Brighton city airport), *(c)* Leeds Bradford airport, *(d)* Bournemouth airport, *(e)* Blackpool airport, *(f)* Birmingham International airport, *(g)* Aberdeen airport, *(h)* Belfast George Best city airport and *(i)* Belfast International airport. [124510]

Mr. Byrne: This information cannot be disclosed as this could provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent immigration controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of immigration offences.

Lancashire Police: Special Constables

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special constables were recruited by the Lancashire police force in each of the last five years. [130734]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are given in the table.

Special constables (headcount) recruited[1] by police force from 2002-03 to 2005-06[2]

Lancashire	*Number of special constables*
2002-03	74
2003-04	70
2004-05	63
2005-06	92

[1] Recruits include those specials joining as direct recruits to the constabulary, and exclude transfers and rejoiners.
[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Data are not available prior to 2002-03.

Leyhill Prison

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to apprehend escaped prisoners from Leyhill open prison; how many prisoners are still at large; and what offences they are guilty of. [131083]

Mr. Sutcliffe: When a prisoner absconds from an open prison, the police are informed immediately. Their apprehension is then a police matter. The following table sets out the number of prisoners who are still unlawfully at large after absconding, during the last five financial years. Offence details could be provided at disproportionate cost only.

Number of prisoners unlawfully at large after absconding, 2002-2007

	Number of prisoners UAL[1]
2002-03	2
2003-04	2
2004-05	5
2005-06	6
2006-07	5

[1] Data accurate as of 2 April 2007

Members: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter dated 7 February from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood on the briefing on the arrests made in Birmingham of nine young men for terrorist offences. [124763]

Mr. McNulty: I refer my right hon. Friend, the Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, to my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary's letter of 19 March 2007.

Migrant Workers

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many self-employed migrant workers there are in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [126829]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* This information is not available.

Miscarriages of Justice: Compensation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons, and on what legal basis, the revised fee structure for the Independent Assessor of compensation for miscarriages of justice was implemented on 26 July 2006; and who *(a)* designed and *(b)* authorised the revised fee structure. [131057]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The legal basis for the payment of fees to the Assessor is set out in Schedule 12 and section 133 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988.

The fee structure implemented on 26 July 2006 took account of the increase in the complexity of cases and the requirement, following the Court of Appeal judgment in Mickey and O'Brien, for the Assessor to provide a more detailed breakdown of the elements of his assessment. The new fee structure was proposed by officials following discussion with the Assessor. It was authorised by the Home Secretary on 5 July 2006.

Due to an oversight, formal Treasury approval for the revised fee structure was not given until 15 February 2007. This oversight, which is regretted, has been brought to the attention of the Home Office accounting officer

Money Laundering

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will undertake a review of the capability of the Suspicious Activity Report regime; and if he will make a statement. [131612]

Mr. Coaker: At the request of the Government, Sir Stephen Lander, Chairman of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), carried out a comprehensive review of the Suspicious Activity Report regime in 2005-06. The report, which was completed after extensive consultation with public and private sector stakeholders, was published in April 2006. A copy is available on SOCA's website. The report made 24 recommendations.

21 of the recommendations have been delivered and the remainder are on track to be implemented. An annual report on the regime's functioning, covering October 2006 to October 2007, will be published in the autumn.

Motoring Offences

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were convicted of motoring offences in (i) Tamworth, (ii) Staffordshire and (iii) England and Wales in the most recent year for which information is available, broken down by offence. [129994]

Mr. McNulty: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of males and females found guilty at all courts for motoring offences in Staffordshire police force area and England and Wales in 2005 can be found in the following table. It is not possible to identify those found guilty in Tamworth, as the data are not collected at this level of detail

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Number of offenders found guilty at all courts of motoring offences by gender and offence class in Staffordshire police force area, and England and Wales, 2005[1, 2]

	Staffordshire		England and Wales	
Offence class	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Dangerous driving	68	2	4,522	173
Driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs	1,306	205	74,282	10,258
Careless driving	556	124	17,308	3,133
Accident offences	158	21	4,991	859
Driving Licence related offences	1,008	78	48,495	3,866
Vehicle Insurance Offences	3,779	475	179,492	20,423
Vehicle Registration and Excise Licence offences	31	14	10,219	2,589
Work record or employment offences	4	0	1,976	23
Operator's Licence offences	3	0	477	17
Vehicle Test offences	126	12	11,300	1,175
Fraud, forgery, etc associated with vehicle or driver records	19	0	1,746	174
Vehicle, or part, in dangerous or defective condition	82	9	6,512	534
Speed limit offences	3,344	916	124,952	28,814
Motorway offence (other than speeding)	29	2	1,596	228
Neglect of traffic directions	57	13	16,998	3,576
Neglect of pedestrian rights	16	3	1,700	299
Obstruction, waiting and parking offences	26	3	5,655	1,852
Lighting offences	42	4	2,162	187
Noise offences	2	1	365	13
Load offences	138	1	3,629	94
Offences peculiar to motor cycles	4	0	204	15
Miscellaneous offences (including trailer offences)	2,206	454	56,892	13,425
Total	13,004	2,337	575,473	91,727

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

National Crime Intelligence Service: National Crime Squad

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much and what percentage of their budget each police force in England and Wales contributed to *(a)* the National Criminal Intelligence Service and *(b)* the National Crime Squad in each year since 1998. [130189]

Mr. McNulty: The National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) and the National Crime Squad (NCS) were funded by a levy on police forces until 1 April 2002. On average, forces contributed about 1.75 per cent. of their budgets to fund the two bodies.

From 1 April 2002, NCS and NCIS were financed primarily by grant in aid from the Home Office, and individual forces no longer contributed.

Naturalisation Test

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the percentage of British citizens who could pass the Life in the UK naturalisation test. [130017]

John Reid: No such estimate has been made.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultations were carried out on the *(a)* content and *(b)* method of the Life in the UK naturalisation test. [130019]

John Reid: The questions for the Life in the UK test are based on "Life in the United Kingdom: A Journey to Citizenship", the second edition of which has just been published. Advice on the content of the test was taken from the Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration (ABNI), the members of which were selected on the basis of open competition. ABNI, together with educational experts and information technology experts, were also consulted about the testing method.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the subject matters which are included within the Life in the UK naturalisation test. [130037]

John Reid: As from 2 April the Life in the UK Test will be based on chapters two to six of the publication "Life in the United Kingdom: A Journey to Citizenship" (second edition).

For a period of three months after 2 April facilities will be made available for people who studied the first edition of "Life in the United Kingdom" to take a Life in the UK Test based on that edition.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the questions for the Life in the UK naturalisation test were tested on British citizens. [130039]

John Reid: The Life in the UK Test was piloted in June 2005 at eight test centres. Candidates included long-term and more recent migrants as well as some British citizens. 25 per cent. of the total number of participants were British citizens.

Oakhill Secure Training Centre

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 120W, on Oakhill Secure Training Centre, how many members of staff have resigned since January 2005. [122841]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 23 February 2007]:* Between 1 January 2005 and 31 January 2007, 224 members of staff resigned. These figures have been

supplied by the Youth Justice Board and relate to employees of the contractor, G4S Justice Services. They do not include those employed by sub-contractors, for example providing health care or education services.

G4S recognises that this is a high number of resignations. It is in part attributable to the particular employment conditions in Milton Keynes, where Oakhill is located. The Youth Justice Board and G4S are working on an action plan to address performance issues identified by the Commission for Social Care Inspection. This should help promote stability and reduce the number of staff leaving the centre.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were served with formal notice warning of liability to deportation (IM3 form) in each year since 2001; how many of these prisoners were released into the care of his Department at the end of remand or sentence; and how many were released into the community. [130401]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not available and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

On 19 February the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee to provide the most recent information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the weekly cost of *(a)* a violence reduction programme and *(b)* a prison place. [131169]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Probation Service run a range of offender behaviour programmes, including several which focus on violence. Unit costs for individual programmes are currently being developed by the Probation Service and will be available in the autumn of this year.

The average weekly cost per prison place in 2005-06 was £556.

Offenders: Republic of Ireland

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Irish nationals have been transferred at the completion of a custodial sentence from a prison to an immigration removal facility in the last 10 months. [121869]

Mr. Byrne: Accurate and robust information for the period requested is not available.

In my written ministerial statement of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 43WS, I explained that those Irish national prisoners whose deportation cases were not considered exceptional and whose sentences had expired would be released from custody.

This has now been activated.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what percentage of people convicted of having an article with a blade or point under section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 had a previous conviction at the time of their sentence, broken down by *(a)* offence and *(b)* age group; [131182]

(2) how many and what percentage of people convicted of encouraging violent behaviour involving the use of a knife under the Knives Act 1997 had a previous conviction at the time of their sentence, broken down by *(a)* offence and *(b)* age group; [131217]

(3) how many people and what percentage of people convicted of carrying an offensive weapon under section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 had a previous conviction at the time of their sentence in each of the last 30 years, broken down by *(a)* offence and *(b)* age group. [131242]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on previous convictions is not available at the level of individual offences. Figures on criminal histories broken down by types of offence can be found on the Home Office's website in Table 6.3 of Sentencing Statistics 2005:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0307.pdf

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many incidents of recorded violent crime a samurai sword was used as an offensive weapon in each year since 1997. [131239]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify those offences which are sword/knife related. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime statistics.

Figures are collected for homicides involving the use of sharp instruments but they do not separate identify knife-related offences. The Home Office is working closely with ACPO to develop a knife-enabled crime action plan and is seeking to collate the numbers of knife-related offences for grievous bodily harm through the Annual Data Requirement in 2007-08.

Passports

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam, of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 972W, on passports, what the error rate was on checks provided by the Passport Validation Service in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [131382]

Joan Ryan: The Passport Validation Service provides confirmation that information on a passport presented to a user organisation corresponds with the information held on central passport records for the purpose of combating fraud and identity theft.

This has been provided since 2002 via a computer interface. A call centre service also commenced operation on 1 August 2006.

On the basis of PVS records we are satisfied that no check has resulted in any erroneous confirmation being provided to a user organisation.

Passports: Applications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to section 6(7) of the Identity Cards Act 2006, whether applicants for passport renewal who apply solely for a passport prior to 1 January 2010 will have their details entered on the National Identity Register. [120392]

Joan Ryan: Once passports are designated under section 4 of the Identity Cards Act 2006, anyone applying for the first time or for renewal of a passport will have their identity details entered on the National Identity Register which, apart from the recording of biometrics, will hold exactly the same sort of identity information that is already required for the issue of passports and other official documents. Prior to 1 January 2010 section 6(7) of the Identity Cards Act makes it possible for anyone, who wishes to do so, to opt out of being issued with an identity card, but after that date anyone applying for a passport would be issued with an identity card together with a passport. This principle was accepted by Parliament when the Identity Cards Act was passed in 2006.

Passports: Interviews

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 302W, on passports: interviews, on which days of the week each office will be open; and for how many hours each office will be open on each day. [131189]

Joan Ryan: The days per week each interview office referred to will open are:

(a) Barnstable[1] - Wednesday and Saturday
(b) Bristol - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday
(c) Exeter - Tuesday, Friday and Saturday
(d) Yeovil - Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday

All the offices will be open 8.00am to 6.00pm each day they are open.

[1] IPS originally proposed to locate this office in Barnstable but we have not been able to secure suitable premises and are now extending our search to neighbouring towns.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 301W, on passport interviews, if he will assess the merits of hosting remote access facilities for passport interview centres in Taunton. [131190]

Joan Ryan: Remote passport interview facilities will be located in sparsely populated parts of the UK, as defined by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Somerset is not defined as a sparsely populated area in this context.

Police

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of gross revenue expenditure by *(a)* Devon and Cornwall Police Authority and *(b)* all police authorities was financed by (i) central Government provision and (ii) revenue from council tax in each year since 1992. [112701]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested where available is set out in a table which has been placed in the Library.

Revenue funding includes all grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services), and includes formula grant and all specific grants.

The figures exclude grants inside AEF such as housing benefit subsidy, capital grants, funding for local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed within the *(a)* Policing Policy and Operations Directorate, *(b)* Police Leadership and Powers Unit and *(c)* Police Human Resources Unit; and what the cost of their salaries is in each case in 2006-07. [129370]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* As at the end of March 2007, the Policing Policy and Operations Directorate *(a)* employed 204 full-time equivalents. Of this number, 47 were employed within the Police Leadership and Powers Unit *(b)* and 46 within the Police Human Resources Unit *(c)*. The cost of the salaries for 2006-07 was *(a)* £10.9 million; *(b)* 2.7 million; and *(c)* 2.7 million.

Police Custody: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of spaces available in Wales under Operation Safeguard were used in each week since the operation came into force; and if he will make a statement. [128424]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The usage of Operation Safeguard by individual police forces is held for use as management information only.

Police Patrols

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to his answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1930W, if he will provide the figures by each police force. [130199]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 March 2007]:* The following table sets out by force the proportion of police officer time spent on front-line duties. The information asked for on the time spent in each force on patrol and paperwork is not available as these data are collected by forces for internal management purposes only.

Time spent on Front-line duties

Percentage

Front-line policing	*Position in 2005-06*	*Target for 2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	60.90	63.30
Bedfordshire	62.10	68.50
Cambridgeshire	70.70	69.30
Cheshire	63.40	71.40
City of London	69.10	70.60
Cleveland	55.20	69.90

Time spent on Front-line duties

Front-line policing	*Position in 2005-06*	*Target for 2007-08*
		Percentage
Cumbria	59.30	66.90
Derbyshire	70.30	70.80
Devon and Cornwall	63.10	66.50
Dorset	68.70	72.00
Durham	59.50	67.60
Dyfed-Powys	63.30	68.70
Essex	62.70	70.30
Gloucestershire	66.50	72.70
Greater Manchester	61.20	72.10
Gwent	60.00	65.60
Hampshire	67.30	167.00
Hertfordshire	64.20	73.00
Humberside	56.60	68.30
Kent	67.50	71.10
Lancashire	62.50	68.10
Leicestershire	67.80	70.40
Lincolnshire	66.50	72.30
Merseyside	61.40	72.60
Metropolitan police	61.30	65.80
Norfolk	66.70	70.30
North Wales	63.50	66.60
North Yorkshire	64.40	75.60
Northamptonshire	65.50	68.80
Northumbria	62.50	71.40
Nottinghamshire	59.50	73.00
South Wales	61.00	73.40
South Yorkshire	65.90	70.20
Staffordshire	66.60	68.70
Suffolk	59.50	68.50
Surrey	63.10	69.40
Sussex	61.30	68.50
Thames Valley	66.10	68.70
Warwickshire	66.20	168.80
West Mercia	64.60	71.80
West Midlands	61.80	73.10
West Yorkshire	70.60	66.70
Wiltshire	63.10	68.90
England and Wales	63.10	70.80

Police: Advisory Groups

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the role is of independent advisory groups for police constabularies and authorities; how they are appointed; who the members are of each such group; what qualifications are recognised for this role; for how long members serve; what remuneration members receive; to whom such groups report; and if he will make a statement. [129568]

Mr. McNulty: Independent advisory groups have been set up by a number of police forces at the discretion of the chief constable and the role, composition and means of appointment are a matter for them.

Police: Bolton

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police officers were stationed in Bolton in each year since 1997; [130382]

(2) how many community support officers were provided in Bolton in each year since 1997. [130409]

Mr. McNulty: Information on the number of police officers in basic command units is collected annually and has only been available since March 2002. For Police Community Support Officers BCU numbers has only been collected since June 2005. The data for the Bolton Metropolitan Borough Division is set out in the following table. The deployment of police officers and police community support officers to basic command units and to other specialist operational units is a matter for the Chief Constable.

Bolton Metropolitan Borough Division

	Number of Police Officers[1]	*Number of Police Community Support Officers*[2]
2002	517	—
2003	526	—
2004	551	—
2005	549	26
2006	539	20

[1] As at 31 March.
[2] As at 30 June.

Police: Business

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to encourage police authorities to improve links with local people and businesses. [126025]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* Section 96 of the Police Act 1996 places a duty on police authorities to make arrangements for obtaining the views of people in the force area about matters concerning the policing of the area. It is for the police authority to determine the means of doing so after consulting the chief constable.

The standard membership of a police authority is 17 of which five are independent members who are local people who represent a wide range of interests in the police area and with relevant skills.

The Department is working with the Association of Chief Police Officers to ensure effective engagement on crime against businesses.

Police: Cadets

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to encourage young people to join the Police Cadets. [128852]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 March 2007]:* Cadet schemes are run locally by a number of forces. Forces undertake their own initiatives to attract young people from their local communities. Cadet programmes are intended to give young people an idea of what it is like to be a police officer and to help forge links within local communities. Cadet activities include:

Crime prevention
First aid
Self-defence
Sport and fitness
Police procedures and law

Cadets also take part in local crime prevention initiatives and stewarding at events.

Police: Community Support Officers

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers were employed as of 31 December 2006, broken down by police authority area. [130049]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* The most recently available data are published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Police Strength in England and Wales, 30th September 2006 (04/07), and are given in the following table.

The bulletin is available in the Library of the House and can be downloaded from:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0407.pdf

Table three in the bulletin contains the police community support officer numbers in England and Wales as at 30 September 2006.

Police Community Support Officer strength by English Government office regions and Wales (FTE)[1]

	Number
North East	365
Cleveland	111
Durham	90
Northumbria	164
North West	863
Cheshire	77
Cumbria	27
Greater Manchester	321
Lancashire	224
Merseyside	214
Yorkshire and the Humber	828
Humberside	112
North Yorkshire	85
South Yorkshire	126
West Yorkshire	503
East Midlands	563
Derbyshire	56
Leicestershire	155
Lincolnshire	134
Northamptonshire	62
Nottinghamshire	155
West Midlands	681
Staffordshire	103
Warwickshire	61
West Mercia	170
West Midlands	348
Eastern	781
Bedfordshire	47
Cambridgeshire	125
Essex	296
Hertfordshire	165
Norfolk	102
Suffolk	46
London	2,689
London, City of	8
Metropolitan Police	2,681
South East	772
Hampshire	103
Kent	100
Surrey	161
Sussex	274
Thames Valley	134
South West	591
Avon and Somerset	182
Devon and Cornwall	158
Dorset	72
Gloucestershire	94
Wiltshire	85
Wales	384
Dyfed-Powys	30
Gwent	97
North Wales	76
South Wales	181
Total of all 43 forces	8,517

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: Databases

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the current timetable is for implementation of the Police National Database; [127293]

(2) what the timetable is for the implementation of the IMPACT Cross Regional Information Sharing Project programme; [127294]

(3) what the cost of the IMPACT programme has been; and what he expects its projected final cost to be. [127298]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answers 13 March 2007]:* As my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, the hon. Member for Enfield, North (Joan Ryan) said during the Adjournment debate called by the hon. Member for Barnsley, Central (Mr. Illsley) on 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 307WH, we are currently evaluating options for delivering maximum value to the police service through the IMPACT programme while capitalising as much as possible on the investment already made by the Home Office and police forces. We expect to be making an announcement on the results of that evaluation shortly and this will include a timetable for implementing future IMPACT solutions.

As at the end of January, the Home Office had invested £64.9 million in the IMPACT programme. This includes the successful delivery of the IMPACT Nominal Index; the delivery of a programme to improve information management in police forces and the allocation of substantial grant funding to forces to enable them to prepare their data for sharing. The projected final costs of the programme will be reassessed once a decision has been made on the options evaluation. We will be able to say more on this in the 4th Report on Progress on the Bichard Inquiry Recommendations, which we plan to publish in the spring.

Police: Equal Opportunities

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets are set for police authorities on the recruitment of police officers on the basis of *(a)* gender and *(b)* ethnicity. [126026]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* In 1999, the Home Secretary published race equality employment targets for the police service to be achieved by 2009. An annual report is published showing the progress that the service has made against those targets.

While there are no comparable targets for gender, the Police Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF) includes performance indicators on female officer representation.

The Home Office is committed to providing equality of opportunity for police officers and staff regardless of gender. The Home Office encourages forces to adopt positive action initiatives to promote the recruitment of women officers. The Police Minister chairs the Women in Policing Steering Group. The group has sponsored guidance on flexible working, and gender equality schemes in forces. It has recently commissioned work on whether further targets should be set for the recruitment, retention and progression of female police officers.

Police: Forms

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of forms used by the police. [126884]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has consistently made clear his commitment to reducing police bureaucracy, placing this important work at the heart of his vision for policing through:

A review of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act which was announced July last year, to examine potential areas for reducing bureaucracy on the Police Service.

A Statement of Common Values on the Police Service made on six March, which included a commitment to reduce bureaucracy and make policing more public-facing.

A Review of Policing announced on 27 March, which includes Sir Ronnie Flanagan leading work on how to deliver a step-change in bureaucracy, reporting in August.

A key feature of these plans is the commitment to ensuring that administrative demands do not distort or hinder front-line policing priorities. However, the information required of each police force to make an assessment of the number of forms they use is not held centrally.

Police: Retirement

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 550W, on police: retirement, what categories of data will be provided by forces. [130334]

John Reid: Data will be collected in respect of exit interviews as part of the annual data requirement in categories for rank, gender, length of service, ethnicity, and reason for leaving. In terms of the reason for leaving these are categorised as domestic reasons, work commitments, the individual's role, pay and conditions, training/career, management issues, organisational culture, colleagues, fairness at work, discrimination, taking another job, and on promotion.

Ports

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many ports of entry there are in the United Kingdom. [126438]

John Reid: For the purposes of the Immigration Act 1971 there are 57 ports of entry in the United Kingdom.

Prison Places

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many additional prison places were provided in each year since 1997; and how many more are planned; [129935]

(2) what the average cost was of each new prison place built in each year since 1997. [129936]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows how many new prison places have been created in the years in question and the average capital building cost per new place. 8,000 new prison places were announced in the Criminal Justice System Review in July 2006. These will be provided using a combination of new prisons and expansion at existing sites.

£000

Financial year	*Number of new prison places*[1]	*Average capital building cost per new place*[2]
1997-98	4,716	60
1998-99	1,222	67
1999-2000	1,646	65
2000-01	640	61
2001-02	920	79
2002-03	1780	57
2003-04	1376	77
2004-05	2570	100
2005-06	940	119

[1] The number of new places includes a mixture of places at new prisons as well as places provided by expansions at existing prisons. It does not take into account any places provided through prisoners sharing cells; nor does it take into account any places that have been taken out of use.

[2] The costs shown cover the capital building costs of each new place only. No adjustment has been made for inflation.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which prisons an increase in capacity is planned; what the current capacity is of each; what increase is planned; and by what date he expects the new accommodation to be available. [129937]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The building programme to provide new prison places by 2012, both in new prisons and at existing sites, is still under development. Decisions on the location of the places will be determined by greatest need; and where possible, they will be provided in areas of highest demand. Specific sites are subject to detailed internal planning, acquisition and planning consent.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 643W, on prison sentences, whether there is a difference in average length of sentences for British and foreign offenders who committed the same offence; and if he will provide average sentence lengths for *(a)* foreign and *(b)* British offenders in each category of offence. [126436]

John Reid: Information on the average sentence length by offence for foreign national and British offenders held in custody in all prison establishments in England and Wales can be found in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mean sentences for prisoners in England and Wales 2004-05 to 2006-07 by British and foreign nationals

Months

	British nationals			*Foreign nationals*			*Nationality not recorded*			*Totals for year*		
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Violence against the person	18	18	18	21	19	17	13	9	18	18	18	18
Sexual offences	45	46	47	49	46	44	35	44	41	46	46	46
Robbery	34	31	31	31	28	31	27	40	29	34	31	31
Burglary	20	19	19	20	19	16	20	26	31	20	19	19
Theft and handling	7	7	7	8	7	7	6	8	5	7	7	7
Fraud and forgery	15	15	16	10	12	12	8	9	10	13	13	14
Drug offences	35	34	33	57	57	53	45	43	24	39	39	37
Motoring offences	6	6	6	4	4	4	3	4	5	6	5	178
Other offences	9	9	18	13	12	12	11	13	6	9	9	9
Offence not recorded	13	12	12	16	13	16	11	1	1	13	12	12

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners are serving over tariff incarceration on the grounds of their refusal to confess their guilt. [129657]

John Reid: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Denial of guilt is not of itself a bar to release of prisoners from custody. There is no rule or policy that automatically prevents those who, for whatever reason, deny their guilt from progressing through the prison system provided their risk is assessed as having reduced to a level that is compatible with protecting the public from harm. The assessment of a prisoner's current level of risk is the pre-eminent factor in determining suitability for release.

Release of tariff-expired indeterminate sentence prisoners is a matter for the independent Parole Board. The main criterion governing the Board's consideration is the level of risk of serious harm that the prisoner may pose to others. For that reason it is unlawful for the Board to refuse release simply on the ground that the prisoner continues to deny guilt.

Prisoners Transfers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of prisoners serving a sentence of *(a)* zero to three months, *(b)* six to 12 months, *(c)* 12 to 18 months, *(d)* 18 to 24 months and *(e)* 24 months or more were transferred (i) once, (ii) twice, (iii) three times, (iv) four times, (v) five times, (vi) six times, (vii) seven times, (viii) eight times and (ix) more than eight times during their sentence in the last year for which figures are available. [130532]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* This information is not held centrally.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were transferred to another prison during their sentence in each of the last five years. [130548]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table shows the number of prison to prison transfers of prisoners in England and Wales, recorded by the Inter Prison Transfer contractor, for each financial year from April 2002 until March 2007, the latest date for which figures are available.

There are also a number of prisoner movements between prisons managed locally that are not reported centrally.

Financial year	*Number of transfers*
2002	71,145
2003	72,746
2004	70,128

Financial year	Number of transfers
2005	68,430
2006 (to March)	71,809

Prisoners: Age

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners are aged *(a)* 50 to 64 years and *(b)* 65 years and over. [129926]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There were *(a)* 5,507 prisoners aged 50 to 64 years and *(b)* 1,036 prisoners aged 65 and over detained in prison establishments in England and Wales as at 31 January 2007.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* convicted prisoners and *(b)* offenders who had completed their sentence were kept in prison pending deportation, in each of the last five years, broken down by prison establishment; and what the cost of keeping such people in prison was in each facility. [128495]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested for the time period concerned is not available.

The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February 2007 and provided the latest information held by the Department on deportation matters. A copy of this correspondence was placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners from *(a)* EU countries and *(b)* countries outside the EU are serving sentences in England and Wales; and what the number was in each of the last three years. [131387]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of prisoners in prison establishments in England and Wales from European Union countries and countries outside the EU between June 2005 and February 2007 can be found in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison population of all prison establishments in England and Wales showing numbers from EU and outside EU, 2005 to 2007

	30 June 2005	30 June 2006	28 February 2007
Non-British EU Nationals	2,012	2,334	2,469
Non-EU Foreign Nationals	7,639	8,554	9,774
Not Recorded	869	944	879
UK Nationals	65,670	66,160	67,459
Total	76,190	77,982	79,581

The following is a link to show European Union membership.

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1139991776535

Prisoners: Human Rights

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to what extent prisoners in *(a)* state and *(b)* privately-run prisons are protected by the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. [130847]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Within the member states of the Council of Europe, human rights standards in places of detention are monitored by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture who have established a system of regular visits to places of detention.

The Human Rights Act 1998 brought the European Convention of Human Rights into UK law. The Convention contains absolute, limited and qualified rights. Article 5 (the right to liberty) is limited under explicit circumstances, specifically where detention is authorised by law. Prisoners remain covered by the Act but some interference with qualified rights comes with detention, e.g. Article 8 (the right to respect for private family life, home and correspondence). Such interference is permissible if it can be shown to be necessary and proportionate.

Responsibility for considering different aspects of equality and human rights in relation to prisoners is shared between staff responsible for setting policy and those responsible for managing and operating prisons. The issues are considered in all policy decisions and covered in mainstream training.

If adhered to, the policies contained in Prison Service Orders and Standards which underpin Prison Rules, represent a good framework within which the prisons support the UK obligations under treaties such as the United Nations Convention against Torture and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Prisoners: Humberside

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on reimbursing the relatives of prisoners in the Humber region for Humber Bridge tolls incurred whilst visiting prisoners in each of the last three years. [130536]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not routinely collected and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Location

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were held in prisons over 50 miles from their homes in each of the last five years. [125548]

John Reid: The information requested is provided in the following table. Where no home address is listed for a prisoner, the committal court is used as a proxy address.

	Snapshot of number of prisoners held over 50 miles from their homes (to nearest 100)
2002	25,700
2003	26,800
2004	27,300
2005	27,600
2006	27,800

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost was of keeping a prisoner in each *(a)* prison establishment and *(b)* young offender institution in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [130807]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 29 March 2007]*: The following table shows the 2005-06 cost per prisoner for each prison establishment, broken down by function. This includes all young offender institutes (YOI).

Cost per prisoner for each prison establishment 2005-06

Function Group	Establishment name	Cost per prisoner (£)
Male Closed YOI	Aylesbury	33,269
Male Closed YOI	Brinsford	37,327
Male Closed YOI	Castington	38,653
Male Closed YOI	Deerbolt	34,554
Male Closed YOI	Feltham	56,486
Male Closed YOI	Glen Parva	28,269
Male Closed YOI	Hindley	41,684
Male Closed YOI	Lancaster Farms	32,156
Male Closed YOI	Northallerton	31,927
Male Closed YOI	Portland	31,356
Male Closed YOI	Reading	32,479
Male Closed YOI	Rochester	24,885
Male Closed YOI	Stoke Heath	30,072
Male Closed YOI	Swinfen Hall	26,691
Male Open YOI	Thorn Cross	36,163
Male Juvenile	Huntercombe	44,226
Male Juvenile	Warren Hill	51,080
Male Juvenile	Wellington	52,185
Male Juvenile	Wetherby	39,366
Male Category B	Albany	23,326
Male Category B	Garth	25,781
Male Category B	Gartree	30,610
Male Category B	Grendon	29,253
Male Category B	High Down	23,295
Male Category B	Kingston	32,521
Male Category B	Parkhurst	30,781
Male Category B	Swaleside	20,629
Male Category C	Acklington	18,002
Male Category C	Ashwell	20,304
Male Category C	Blundeston	25,318
Male Category C	Buckley Hall[1]	38,008
Male Category C	Camp Hill	21,514
Male Category C	Canterbury	23,839
Male Category C	Channings Wood	21,581
Male Category C	Coldingley	24,100
Male Category C	Dartmoor	26,007
Male Category C	Edmunds Hill[1]	39,093
Male Category C	Erlestoke	21,872
Male Category C	Everthorpe	20,483
Male Category C	Featherstone	22,996
Male Category C	Guys Marsh	19,407
Male Category C	Haverigg	21,740
Male Category C	Highpoint	18,263
Male Category C	Lancaster	28,426
Male Category C	Lindholme	25,988
Male Category C	Littlehey	18,672
Male Category C	Maidstone	21,332
Male Category C	Moorland	21,703
Male Category C	Mount	21,497
Male Category C	Onley	30,187
Male Category C	Ranby	21,401
Male Category C	Risley	18,792
Male Category C	Shepton Mallet	30,686
Male Category C	Stafford	20,398
Male Category C	Stocken	20,485
Male Category C	Usk\Prescoed	21,470
Male Category C	Verne	18,508
Male Category C	Wayland	17,429
Male Category C	Wealstun	21,019
Male Category C	Weare[2]	n/a
Male Category C	Wellingborough	24,583
Male Category C	Whatton	30,604
Male Category C	Wymott	21,476
Male Dispersal	Frankland	49,179
Male Dispersal	Full Sutton	46,901
Male Dispersal	Long Lartin	50,957
Male Dispersal	Wakefield	43,351
Male Dispersal	Whitemoor	66,224
Female closed	Bullwood Hall	53,548
Female closed	Cookham Wood	37,938
Female closed	Downview	37,349
Female closed	Foston Hall	37,602
Female closed	Send	32,273
Female local	Brockhill	49,832
Female local	Eastwood Park	37,915
Female local	Holloway	53,256
Female local	Low Newton	40,849
Female local	New Hall	46,470
Female local	Styal	36,460
Female open	Askham Grange	32,877
Female open	East Sutton Park	24,594
Male Local	Bedford	23,808
Male Local	Belmarsh	42,323
Male Local	Birmingham	21,592
Male Local	Blakenhurst	18,442
Male Local	Bristol	30,476
Male Local	Brixton	28,050
Male Local	Bullingdon	22,083
Male Local	Cardiff	23,546
Male Local	Chelmsford	27,659
Male Local	Dorchester	28,768
Male Local	Durham	28,504
Male Local	Elmley	18,230
Male Local	Exeter	25,621
Male Local	Gloucester	30,501
Male Local	Holme House	22,218
Male Local	Hull	21,872
Male Local	Leeds	21,982
Male Local	Leicester	31,509
Male Local	Lewes	22,349

Cost per prisoner for each prison establishment 2005-06

Function Group	Establishment name	Cost per prisoner (£)
Male Local	Lincoln	30,124
Male Local	Liverpool	22,119
Male Local	Manchester	26,885
Male Local	Norwich	21,791
Male Local	Nottingham	28,011
Male Local	Pentonville	22,778
Male Local	Preston	28,063
Male Local	Shrewsbury	28,998
Male Local	Swansea	25,990
Male Local	Wandsworth	21,711
Male Local	Winchester	24,657
Male Local	Woodhill	38,393
Male Local	Wormwood Scrubs	23,177
Male Open	Ford	14,905
Male Open	Hewell Grange	27,536
Male Open	Hollesley Bay	28,929
Male Open	Kirkham	29,248
Male Open	Leyhill	25,935
Male Open	North Sea Camp	21,289
Male Open	Standford Hill	20,858
Male Open	Sudbury	17,076
Semi Open	Blantyre House	24,105
Semi Open	Dover	32,438
Semi Open	Drake Hall	29,083
Semi Open	Haslar	35,712
Semi Open	Kirklevington	19,266
Semi Open	Latchmere House	16,515
Semi Open	Morton Hall	29,565
Contracted prisons	Altcourse	33,141
Contracted prisons	Ashfield	60,025
Contracted prisons	Bronzefield	47,274
Contracted prisons	Doncaster	18,999
Contracted prisons	Dovegate	28,684
Contracted prisons	Forest Bank	22,269
Contracted prisons	Lowdham Grange	25,576
Contracted prisons	Parc	33,742
Contracted prisons	Rye Hill	24,954
Contracted prisons	Wolds	23,258

[1] Prisons re-roled from female to male during 2005-06
[2] HMP Weare closed in August 2005.

Prisoners: Taunton

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females whose home area was recorded as falling within Taunton constituency are (i) on remand and (ii) convicted prisoners being held in a prison (A) up to 50 miles, (B) between 50 and 100 miles and (C) over 100 miles from their home. [130534]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* The information requested is contained in the table. The data is for males and females whose home address area was recorded as within Taunton constituency, and is for January 2007.

	Males		Females		
	(i) Unconvicted	(ii) Convicted	(i) Unconvicted	(ii) Convicted	Total
(A) Under 50 miles	9	59	0	0	68
(B) Between 50 and 100 miles	2	21	0	2	25
(C) Over 100 miles	1	18	0	3	22
Total	12	98	0	5	115

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors arising from data entry and processing. For this reason the data may not be wholly accurate due to the relatively small numbers involved.

Prisons

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 891-2W to the hon. Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) on prisons, for what reasons the IT system could not provide the information, provided in the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1035W to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) on life sentences. [126444]

John Reid: Answering the question of 12 June 2006 involved significant manual checking of records and was integral to informing the need for a data quality review in the Department. Since then the data quality review has begun and, as part of that review we are developing a new database that will enable us, in time, to collect the data requested centrally. But, at this time to answer the question would involve a disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Construction

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total *(a)* capital and *(b)* repayment value is of the new prisons to be constructed in (i) Maghull and (ii) Woolwich. [125943]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Secretary recently announced that new prisons will be built at Maghull and Belmarsh through one or more PFI competitions.

The capital value and repayment value of the new prisons will not be known until we have received and evaluated bids from potential suppliers and selected a preferred bidder.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mandatory drugs tests were carried out in prisons in each of the last five years; and how many were *(a)* positive and *(b)* negative in each case, broken down by prison. [130198]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 28 March 2007]:* The following tables give details of the number of tests, the number of positives and negatives under the random mandatory drug testing programme for each prison over the last five years.

RMDT

Prison	2002-03 Tests	2002-03 Positive	2002-03 Negative	2003-04 Tests	2003-04 Positive	2003-04 Negative	2004-05 Tests	2004-05 Positive	2004-05 Negative
Acklington	656	75	581	723	116	607	736	86	650
Albany	268	0	268	313	6	307	316	6	310
Altcourse	1,172	141	1,031	1,182	142	1,040	1,155	170	985
Ashfield	330	38	292	297	24	273	339	25	314
Ashwell	290	42	248	319	53	266	321	59	262
Askham Grange	149	4	145	131	4	127	143	4	139
Aylesbury	424	30	394	415	20	395	436	16	420
Bedford	243	51	192	274	45	229	271	36	235
Belmarsh	870	91	779	566	80	486	559	66	493
Birmingham	201	31	170	488	108	380	800	169	631
Blakenhurst	1,291	315	976	1,078	202	876	1,075	167	908
Blantyre House	143	4	139	148	3	145	146	0	146
Blundeston	451	23	428	413	12	401	328	51	277
Brinsford	401	43	358	403	44	359	393	47	346
Bristol	342	49	293	346	49	297	357	58	299
Brixton	475	42	433	490	59	431	501	62	439
Brockhill	201	17	184	147	28	119	167	39	128
Bronzefield	—	—	—	—	—	—	283	48	235
Buckley Hall	271	13	258	358	19	339	397	16	381
Bullingdon	281	28	253	546	78	468	588	91	497
Bullwood Hall	191	7	184	182	6	176	191	9	182
Camp Hill	327	24	303	339	31	308	342	37	305
Canterbury	362	41	321	359	33	326	370	32	338
Cardiff	402	75	327	415	105	310	445	78	367
Castington	415	29	386	338	36	302	433	55	378
Channings Wood	367	16	351	327	11	316	370	15	355
Chelmsford	363	83	280	338	87	251	342	37	305
Coldingley	421	55	366	458	76	382	469	71	398
Cookham Wood	155	8	147	158	4	154	177	8	169
Dartmoor	363	41	322	368	50	318	377	38	339
Deerbolt	281	26	255	279	15	264	358	9	249
Doncaster	1,266	123	1,143	1,262	135	1,127	1,305	107	1,198
Dorchester	239	47	192	293	57	236	292	67	225
Dovegate	788	92	696	817	143	674	922	140	782
Downview	248	10	238	174	20	154	274	23	251
Drake Hall	319	26	293	350	11	339	343	7	336
Durham	432	57	375	445	53	392	437	65	372
East Sutton Park	112	0	112	120	1	119	121	3	118
Eastwood Park	198	25	173	318	67	251	352	41	311
Edmonds Hill	—	—	—	261	57	204	184	26	158
Elmley	513	51	462	630	74	556	606	79	527
Erlestoke	324	34	290	337	46	291	256	40	216
Everthorpe	453	30	423	528	33	495	554	30	524
Exeter	299	33	266	312	47	265	326	30	296
Featherstone	372	38	334	362	17	345	377	36	341
Feltham	398	48	350	569	48	521	785	55	730
Ford	424	48	376	286	67	219	317	43	274
Forest Bank	1,263	188	1,075	1,298	278	1,020	1,225	257	968
Foston Hall	257	2	255	253	6	247	242	6	236
Frankland	498	29	469	622	39	583	665	45	610
Full Sutton	726	23	703	726	24	702	722	37	685
Garth	389	16	373	391	27	364	391	50	341
Gartree	263	14	249	354	15	339	475	16	459
Glen Parva	466	60	406	446	38	408	438	22	416
Gloucester	273	41	232	373	49	324	385	64	321
Grendon	133	5	128	138	8	130	140	3	137
Guys Marsh	318	69	249	371	74	297	407	55	352
Haverigg	314	98	216	315	76	239	380	81	299
Hewell Grange	216	25	191	206	45	161	196	32	164
High Down	415	78	337	442	62	380	439	83	356

RMDT

Prison	2002-03 Tests	2002-03 Positive	2002-03 Negative	2003-04 Tests	2003-04 Positive	2003-04 Negative	2004-05 Tests	2004-05 Positive	2004-05 Negative
Highpoint	511	95	416	421	85	336	434	87	347
Hindley	464	55	409	306	43	263	287	30	257
Hollesley Bay	465	46	419	315	51	264	314	40	274
Holloway	171	32	139	267	51	216	340	49	291
Holme House	567	78	489	593	85	508	543	35	508
Hull	447	35	412	606	47	559	609	80	529
Huntercombe	396	54	342	374	56	318	421	36	385
Kingston	226	17	209	201	27	174	165	22	143
Kirkham	291	75	216	294	103	191	311	79	232
Kirklevington	221	2	219	263	8	255	264	12	252
Lancaster	296	78	218	291	13	278	262	14	248
Lancaster Farms	571	41	530	468	29	439	294	15	279
Latchmere House	229	4	225	239	12	227	241	6	235
Leeds	817	231	586	848	259	589	823	159	664
Leicester	417	53	364	433	44	389	429	56	373
Lewes	303	43	260	297	56	241	305	35	270
Leyhill	262	49	213	306	62	244	305	62	243
Lincoln	446	31	415	543	40	503	393	43	350
Lindholme	404	84	320	378	47	331	364	40	324
Littlehey	358	16	342	379	22	357	353	14	339
Liverpool	863	118	745	861	244	617	838	233	605
Long Lartin	526	29	497	519	33	486	413	46	367
Low Newton	339	54	285	329	30	299	338	23	315
Lowdham Grange	315	13	302	309	15	294	311	26	285
Maidstone	285	28	257	328	30	298	335	36	299
Manchester	738	150	588	742	137	605	736	87	649
Moorland	835	29	806	882	33	849	489	23	466
Moorland Open	208	32	176	277	29	248	289	24	265
Morton Hall	284	7	277	404	6	398	420	5	415
Mount	480	55	425	479	82	397	466	83	383
New Hall	423	41	382	425	25	400	426	35	391
North Sea Camp	153	30	123	330	85	245	308	69	239
Northallerton	247	15	232	237	7	230	247	12	235
Norwich	360	62	298	434	56	378	469	77	392
Nottingham	492	69	423	382	61	321	301	50	251
Onley	291	31	260	333	22	311	308	48	260
Parc	539	77	462	583	139	444	599	91	508
Parkhurst	255	20	235	301	36	265	296	31	265
Pentonville	685	136	549	745	107	638	749	110	639
Peterborough Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peterborough Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portland	232	18	214	281	12	269	268	15	253
Preston	255	49	206	398	71	327	383	95	288
Ranby	885	89	796	500	64	436	521	46	475
Reading	295	24	271	307	13	294	290	9	281
Risley	859	217	642	639	166	473	638	114	524
Rochester	186	18	168	237	22	215	414	17	397
Rye Hill	393	18	375	396	29	367	386	54	332
Send	254	9	245	247	12	235	233	8	225
Shepton Mallet	168	20	148	225	6	219	227	5	222
Shrewsbury	359	83	276	392	85	307	362	61	301
Spring Hill	134	6	128	199	16	183	175	9	166
Stafford	389	53	336	487	49	438	417	41	376
Standford Hill	425	79	346	318	54	264	262	27	235
Stocken	348	12	336	371	19	352	373	12	361
Stoke Heath	362	8	354	376	3	373	397	11	386
Styal	242	24	218	283	50	233	332	47	285
Sudbury	317	48	269	324	46	278	330	42	288
Swaleside	402	22	380	453	43	410	466	58	408
Swansea	592	104	488	389	88	301	410	64	346

RMDT

Prison	2002-03 Tests	2002-03 Positive	2002-03 Negative	2003-04 Tests	2003-04 Positive	2003-04 Negative	2004-05 Tests	2004-05 Positive	2004-05 Negative
Swinfen Hall	370	12	358	382	11	371	486	13	473
Thorn Cross	254	36	218	264	49	215	327	54	273
Usk/Prescoed	393	19	374	470	47	423	491	39	452
Verne	366	20	346	350	28	322	352	53	299
Wakefield	511	7	504	504	9	495	498	6	492
Wandsworth	898	111	787	970	142	828	987	190	797
Warren Hill	—	—	—	229	9	220	251	9	242
Wayland	394	24	370	406	17	389	420	17	403
Wealstun	358	79	279	343	56	287	413	57	356
Weare	364	22	342	386	46	340	412	47	365
Wellingborough	450	39	411	458	36	422	460	59	401
Werrington	131	6	125	150	6	144	158	16	142
Wetherby	398	19	379	311	8	303	354	19	335
Whatton	268	1	267	414	2	412	407	3	404
Whitemoor	257	14	243	410	17	393	391	19	372
Winchester	253	56	197	389	111	278	441	80	361
Wolds	465	15	450	419	14	405	425	6	419
Woodhill	117	10	107	453	35	418	449	53	396
Wormwood Scrubs	632	102	530	709	166	543	774	165	609
Wymott	335	28	307	518	36	482	635	67	568

Prison	2005-06 Tests	2005-06 Positive	2005-06 Negative	2006-07[1] Tests	2006-07[1] Positive	2006-07[1] Negative
Acklington	598	71	527	429	33	396
Albany	323	4	319	270	13	257
Altcourse	1,136	118	1,018	981	112	869
Ashfield	365	13	352	362	7	355
Ashwell	489	91	398	438	25	413
Askham Grange	130	3	127	116	6	110
Aylesbury	507	18	489	443	15	428
Bedford	282	38	244	244	21	223
Belmarsh	562	55	507	483	45	438
Birmingham	857	142	715	884	144	740
Blakenhurst	1,274	215	1,059	1,094	122	972
Blantyre House	146	0	146	126	3	123
Blundeston	334	48	286	280	20	260
Brinsford	409	26	383	347	14	333
Bristol	360	36	324	303	43	260
Brixton	486	127	359	416	61	355
Brockhill	156	19	137	119	6	113
Bronzefield	384	38	346	233	15	218
Buckley Hall	274	25	249	380	132	248
Bullingdon	599	69	530	495	50	445
Bullwood Hall	175	4	171	120	1	119
Camp Hill	347	56	291	306	30	276
Canterbury	377	55	322	288	22	266
Cardiff	454	51	403	383	32	351
Castington	537	38	399	384	16	368
Channings Wood	358	19	339	309	17	292
Chelmsford	350	28	322	294	13	281
Coldingley	461	93	368	383	75	308
Cookham Wood	204	6	198	176	5	171
Dartmoor	374	33	341	307	22	285
Deerbolt	285	10	275	219	2	217
Doncaster	1,309	81	1,228	1,113	93	1020
Dorchester	309	35	274	265	31	234
Dovegate	829	133	696	672	87	585
Downview	325	4	321	317	4	313
Drake Hall	355	5	350	266	6	260
Durham	459	71	388	449	65	384

Prison	2005-06 Tests	2005-06 Positive	2005-06 Negative	2006-07[1] Tests	2006-07[1] Positive	2006-07[1] Negative
East Sutton Park	122	3	119	100	1	99
Eastwood Park	351	36	315	354	39	315
Edmonds Hill	260	16	244	363	16	347
Elmley	588	35	553	503	46	457
Erlestoke	258	30	228	210	30	180
Everthorpe	700	50	650	666	89	577
Exeter	329	32	297	270	16	254
Featherstone	356	68	288	318	53	265
Feltham	434	35	399	319	17	302
Ford	313	51	262	252	35	217
Forest Bank	624	131	493	532	49	483
Foston Hall	226	17	209	230	15	215
Frankland	450	16	434	358	22	336
Full Sutton	388	8	380	288	10	278
Garth	396	48	348	312	20	292
Gartree	553	11	542	509	23	486
Glen Parva	452	15	437	390	7	383
Gloucester	356	54	302	306	42	264
Grendon	173	1	172	128	2	126
Guys Marsh	377	61	316	290	39	251
Haverigg	403	57	346	349	36	313
Hewell Grange	192	13	179	160	11	149
High Down	447	53	394	371	39	332
High	488	76	412	412	53	359
Hind	268	17	251	212	10	202
Hollesley Bay	325	55	270	281	40	241
Holloway	330	21	309	295	10	285
Holme House	593	56	537	505	23	482
Hull	585	84	501	497	39	458
Huntercombe	419	16	403	354	7	347
Kingston	228	28	200	199	12	187
Kirkham	457	79	378	660	76	584
Kirklevington	269	4	265	229	6	223
Lancaster	295	8	287	244	16	228
Lancaster Farms	307	30	277	264	9	255
Latchmere House	242	7	235	191	5	186
Leeds	769	120	649	588	103	485
Leicester	415	39	376	345	26	319
Lewes	317	30	287	270	43	227
Leyhill	293	61	232	311	34	277
Lincoln	276	35	241	198	26	172
Lindholme	431	30	401	402	35	367
Littlehey	412	13	399	352	8	344
Liverpool	810	155	655	663	88	575
Long Lartin	269	30	239	226	21	205
Low Newton	292	37	255	270	14	256
Lowdham Grange	310	32	278	268	39	229
Maidstone	331	67	264	288	41	247
Manchester	737	79	658	611	44	567
Moorland	435	18	417	416	19	397
Moorland Open	281	29	252	209	14	195
Morton Hall	363	2	361	341	4	337
Mount	482	39	443	361	29	332
New Hall	421	32	389	372	32	340
North Sea Camp	304	63	241	263	31	232
Northallerton	228	5	223	231	4	227
Norwich	461	71	390	364	40	324
Nottingham	316	59	257	257	27	230
Onley	337	44	293	296	25	271
Parc	597	39	558	521	30	491
Parkhurst	309	43	266	253	17	236

Prison	2005-06 Tests	2005-06 Positive	2005-06 Negative	2006-07[1] Tests	2006-07[1] Positive	2006-07[1] Negative
Pentonville	765	140	625	558	92	466
Peterborough Female	266	28	238	322	25	297
Peterborough Male	411	66	345	422	93	329
Portland	249	10	239	250	8	242
Preston	364	68	296	333	57	276
Ranby	606	43	563	519	56	463
Reading	340	14	326	260	11	249
Risley	639	71	568	543	35	508
Rochester	469	24	445	397	13	384
Rye Hill	356	58	298	303	50	253
Send	245	3	242	211	5	206
Shepton Mallet	224	4	220	188	0	188
Shrewsbury	342	59	283	325	48	277
Spring Hill	221	23	198	201	9	192
Stafford	405	38	367	343	22	321
Standford Hill	287	34	253	212	17	195
Stocken	365	40	325	312	22	290
Stoke Heath	403	10	393	329	7	322
Styal	500	51	449	674	61	613
Sudbury	332	36	296	275	15	260
Swaleside	474	40	434	399	25	374
Swansea	485	57	428	419	31	388
Swinfen Hall	458	21	437	313	15	298
Thorn Cross	299	54	245	240	16	224
Usk/Prescoed	497	20	477	400	24	376
Verne	356	3	353	299	5	294
Wakefield	358	11	347	367	6	361
Wandsworth	900	123	777	745	100	645
Warren Hill	241	4	237	217	1	216
Wayland	421	17	404	354	10	344
Wealstun	460	83	377	372	73	299
Weare	126	6	120	—	—	—
Wellingborough	312	62	250	308	31	277
Werrington	156	7	149	152	5	147
Wetherby	405	5	400	345	2	343
Whatton	220	4	216	341	2	339
Whitemoor	270	8	262	229	7	222
Winchester	489	52	437	398	39	359
Wolds	361	5	356	327	16	311
Woodhill	459	29	430	384	33	351
Wormwood Scrubs	764	101	663	637	84	553
Wymott	626	53	573	526	36	490

[1] Year to date April 2006 to January 2007.

Prisons: Genetics

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the DNA Prisoner Sampling Exercise in 2003 was carried out in every prison establishment in England and Wales. [122875]

John Reid: The 2003 DNA Prisoner Sampling Exercise was carried out in all prison establishments where prisoners were identified as not having had a sample taken, with the exception of young offenders institutions.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were identified through the Prisoner Sampling Exercise in 2003 as not having their DNA on the National DNA Database; and what proportion of those prisoners subsequently had a sample taken before their release. [122876]

John Reid: Data on prisoners and patients in secure mental establishments as at 28 February 2003 was examined during the Prisoner Sampling Exercise. 5,400 of these were identified as having no DNA profile on the National DNA Database. 3,772 of these prisoners and patients (70 per cent. had a DNA sample taken and added to the National DNA Database.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners in England and Wales had their DNA samples taken during the course of the DNA Prisoner Sampling Exercise carried out in 2003. [122905]

John Reid: 3,772 individuals had DNA samples taken, of which 3,188 were prisoners and 584 were prisoners in secure mental establishments.

Prisons: Location

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average distance in miles was between *(a)* females and *(b)* males in prison and their registered home address in each year since 1997. [130533]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* The information requested for the last five years is contained in the table.

Distance from home is calculated using either home address, or where no home address is listed the committal court is used as a proxy.

Average distance from home area

Miles

	Male	*Female*	*Male and Female*
2002	53	64	53
2003	52	68	53
2004	51	67	52
2005	50	55	50
2006	50	58	50

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females are (i) on remand and (ii) convicted prisoners being held in a prison (A) up to 50 miles, (B) between 50 and 100 miles and (C) over 100 miles from their home. [130535]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* The information requested is contained in the table. The data is for January 2007.

Distance from home is calculated using either home address, or where no home address is listed the committal court is used as a proxy.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors arising from data entry and processing. For this reason the data may not be wholly accurate due to the relatively small numbers involved.

Average distance of prisoners from home by gender and custody status January 2007

	(A) Under 50 miles	*(B) Between 50 and 100 miles*	*(C) Over 100 miles*	*Total*
(a) Male				
Unconvicted	6,793	670	310	7,773
Convicted	39,641	15,302	9,100	64,043
(b) Female				
Unconvicted	384	137	23	544
Convicted	2,082	884	676	3,642
Total	48,900	16,993	10,109	76,002

Prisons: Manpower

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 325W, on prison capacity, how many additional prison officers he expects to be recruited in 2007 to oversee the additional prison places created. [124408]

John Reid: The number of prison officers and custody officers varies depending on the regime and the type and location of the prison. We estimate that around 500 additional prison officers and prison custody officers will be required to staff the 2,500 additional places that will come into use in 2007.

Probation: Greater London

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget allocation for the London Probation Area *(a)* was for 2006-07 and *(b)* is for 2007-08; and what assessment he has made of the potential impact of a change in the budget on service delivery. [130070]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

(a) London Probation Board's total budget for 2006-07 was £137.5 million.

(b) London has received a total provisional allocation for 2007-08 of £144.6 million.

This provides for a 5.1 per cent. cash increase on the 2006-07 figure. Regional offender managers are currently negotiating service level agreements with each probation board setting out what services are delivered within agreed resources.

Prosecutions: Hunting

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 144W, on illegal fox hunts, what the names were of the defendants in the prosecutions referred to where all proceedings are complete. [128204]

Mr. McNulty: It is not appropriate for the Home Office to provide such information.

Refugees

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of refugees who will be eligible for integration loans. [129948]

Joan Ryan: Those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection under the immigration rules and their respective dependants on or after the date on which the loan scheme comes into operation will be eligible to apply for an integration loan. Numbers of eligible applicants will be dependant on how many individuals are granted the appropriate status but we are working on the assumption that there will be no significant rise in numbers from last year. In 2006, 2,170 individuals were granted refugee status and 60 were given humanitarian protection.

The payment of a loan is not automatic and each application will be considered on its own merits.

Reoffenders: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in Hartlepool have broken the terms of their *(a)* bail conditions, *(b)* antisocial behaviour orders and *(c)* acceptable behaviour contract in each of the last five years. [130908]

Mr. McNulty: Data extracted from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty of "Failing to surrender to Bail" in the Hartlepool local justice area (LJA) and the Cleveland police force area are shown in the following table.

Data are not collected centrally on other breaches of bail condition. The figures given for Hartlepool LJA will include defendants who do not necessarily live in Hartlepool itself, but their cases were heard in Hartlepool.

Antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) breach data are available at criminal justice system (CJS) area level only. These data relate to cases where individuals have been proven in court to have broken the terms of their ASBO.

Data on the number of acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are not collected by the Home Office as they are voluntary agreements and therefore unsuitable for central data collection.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for failing to surrender to bail, in the Hartlepool local justice area and Cleveland police force area, 2001 to 2005[1, 2]

	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Hartlepool UA	268	252	287	252	270	240	257	245	151	138
Cleveland Police Force Area	811	658	995	742	1,123	882	1,243	1,079	892	801

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Roads: Accidents

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many car accidents involving a pedestrian being injured or killed *(a)* resulted in police successfully prosecuting a motorist and *(b)* were hit and run cases with no one apprehended in each of the last five years; and what the average sentence was in each prosecution. [130051]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* While the Department for Transport monitors details of road traffic accidents including 'hit and run', this information is not linked with details of any subsequent arrests and prosecutions.

Information collected on the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform does not identify the type of vehicle and casualty (i.e. pedestrian, driver or passenger) involved in road traffic accidents where proceedings have been brought.

Information held on the database on the number of prosecutions and findings of guilt for 'accident' offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 section 170(4) and (7) does not distinguish those offences which resulted in injury from those which resulted in damage or both injury and damage.

Samantha Jackson

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1229W, on Samantha Jackson, when he expects a decision to be taken on the case of Samantha Jackson (reference 410144101). [130408]

Mr. Byrne: IND made a decision on 5 March 2007. The associated paperwork was despatched to Ms Jackson on 27 March 2007.

Secure Accommodation: Young Offenders

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people were held in *(a)* secure children's homes, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* young offender institutions in each month since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [126006]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested can be found in the table. It relates to young people serving juvenile sentences in secure training centres, secure children's homes and juvenile young offender institutions. It does not include young adults in young offender institutions for over 18-year-olds.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Numbers in Secure Children's Homes, Secure Training Centres including those in Juvenile Institutions 2002-07[1]

		Secure Children's Homes	*Secure Training Centres*	*Juvenile Institutions*[2]
2002	January	283	108	2,495
	February	305	119	2,624
	March	308	122	2,702
	April	333	122	2,734
	May	340	128	2,831
	June	330	154	2,866

Numbers in Secure Children's Homes, Secure Training Centres, including those in Juvenile Institutions 2002-07[1]

		Secure Children's Homes	Secure Training Centres	Juvenile Institutions[2]
	July	320	155	2,915
	August	337	154	2,889
	September	322	141	2,947
	October	322	149	2,992
	November	335	152	2,920
	December	322	163	2,713
2003	January	288	155	2,619
	February	301	172	2,610
	March	312	174	2,667
	April	314	171	2,618
	May	328	181	2,598
	June	327	183	2,594
	July	322	183	2,634
	August	313	173	2,624
	September	308	180	2,653
	October	309	175	2,637
	November	307	183	2,598
	December	282	171	2,460
2004	January	289	175	2,504
	February	289	166	2,599
	March	288	187	2,681
	April	278	182	2,650
	May	279	179	2,664
	June	267	181	2,607
	July	264	189	2,618
	August	264	205	2,631
	September	238	223	2,612
	October	244	219	2,677
	November	242	226	2,665
	December	218	214	2,547
2005	January	236	209	2,515
	February	229	232	2,529
	March	232	233	2,521
	April	226	228	2,524
	May	229	237	2,594
	June	238	245	2,605
	July	255	248	2,661
	August	248	249	2,680
	September	257	252	2,770
	October	244	253	2,696
	November	227	246	2,652
	December	216	216	2,404
2006	January	225	231	2,521
	February	213	233	2,610
	March	209	229	2,654
	April	228	246	2,619
	May	234	258	2,715
	June	225	247	2,750

Numbers in Secure Children's Homes, Secure Training Centres, including those in Juvenile Institutions 2002-07[1]

		Secure Children's Homes	Secure Training Centres	Juvenile Institutions[2]
	July	229	233	2,813
	August	233	260	2,824
	September	230	268	2,813
	October	222	260	2,831
	November	225	284	2,803
	December	222	257	2,659
2007	January	226	271	2,743

[1] The age group shown in the table are under 18s only, except those completing a Detention and Training Order. Normally under 18s would not be expected to be found in young offender institutions.
[2] Including some young people recently reaching age 18.

Security Guards: Licensing

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which organisations the Security Industry Authority consulted before implementing the latest increase in licence fees for security officers; [130319]

(2) whether he was consulted by the Security Industry Authority before they implemented the latest increase in licence fees for security officers. [130321]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 March 2007]*: The fee to be paid on application for a licence under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 is prescribed by the Secretary of State in regulations. Following consideration by the Home Office of the SIA's proposals for an increase in the fee the Secretary of State agreed to make the necessary regulations.

An updated regulatory impact assessment was published on 12 January 2007, setting out the case for an increase from 6 April in the fee, which must be set at a level to enable the SIA to recover its costs.

The fee will increase when the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (Licences) Regulations 2007 come into force on 6 April.

Security: Heathrow Airport

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role his Department is playing in the miSense project at Heathrow Airport. [128052]

Mr. Byrne: IND staff were directly involved in enrolling passengers for the miSensePlus and miSenseAllclear scheme but played no role in the miSense trial. All the miSense trials are a proof of concept and delivered by a collaboration of nine partners led by the British Airports Authority (BAA). Participation in the schemes was on an entirely voluntary basis and following the end of the trial period, all personal data are being erased.

Sentencing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to make a decision on the recommendations of the Sentencing Advisory Panel on guidelines for sentencing shoplifters. [129988]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not for the Secretary of State to make decisions on recommendations by the Sentencing Advisory Panel. The Sentencing Advisory Panel produces advice for the Sentencing Guidelines Council, whose role it is to consult and draw up final guidelines. The Government will have an opportunity to comment on any draft, but the final decision on the content of guidelines is for the Sentencing Guidelines Council.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many seizures of Class A drugs have been made by Serious Organised Crime Agency officers since 1 April 2006; and what the estimated total value of these seizures is. [124770]

John Reid: For the period April 2006 to September 2006 SOCA was involved in the seizure of the following Class A drugs as shown in the table.

Drug	*Quantity (approximate)*	*Numbers of Seizures*
Heroin	1,300 kg	47
Cocaine	15,000 kg	64
Ecstasy	4.2 million pieces	10
Opium	100 kg	1
LSD	1 million doses	1

The estimated street value of these seizures would have been approximately £1.8 billion.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on *(a)* stationery for the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and *(b)* promotional merchandise branded with SOCA's name and logo. [124772]

John Reid: It has not been possible for SOCA to give an exact figure for their spend on office stationery to date, however, for the period April 2006 to September 2006, SOCA spent £522,500 on stationery and office consumables. Of this, SOCA estimates that £189,000 was spent on stationery.

For the period April 2006 to September 2006, SOCA spent £12,714.74 on promotional material branded with SOCA's name and logo (excluding headed stationery).

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what system of accountability is in place to monitor the work of the Serious Organised Crime Agency. [130190]

Mr. Coaker: The chair, non-executive directors and the director general of SOCA are all appointed by the Home Secretary; SOCA publishes an annual plan before the beginning of each financial year; and an annual report as soon as possible after the end of each financial year. This is in line with the requirements of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

Before the commencement of SOCA a management statement and financial memorandum was drawn up setting out the overarching framework within which the organisation will operate and a copy of SOCA's MS/FM was placed in the Library.

Regular meetings take place between the chair and director general of SOCA and the Home Secretary and Ministers. The chair and the director general have made several appearances before Select Committees in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, as well as meeting various all-party parliamentary groups. Senior managers of SOCA also have regular meetings with the Home Office sponsor team.

Shoplifting: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many shoplifting offences were recorded in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [130715]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the table.

Offences of theft from shops in Lancashire

	Number of offences
2001-02	8,050
2002-03[1]	7,781
2003-04	8,579
2004-05	8,254
2005-06	8,655

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Stop and Search: Terrorism

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 557W, on stop and search: terrorism, how many of those searched in each category were subsequently charged with *(a)* terrorism-related offences and *(b)* other offences. [130333]

John Reid: The Office of Criminal Justice Reform does not collate charge data following a stop-search under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Terror Suspects

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of the people who were detained without charge on suspicion of terrorist offences between 11 September 2001 and 31 December 2006 were held for *(a)* more than 10 days, *(b)* longer than 20 days and *(c)* 27 or 28 days; [129933]

(2) how many of the persons who were detained without charge on suspicion of terrorist offences between 11 September 2001 and 31 December 2006 were held for *(a)* more than 10 days, *(b)* longer than 20 days and *(c)* 27 or 28 days before a charge was brought against them. [129934]

John Reid: The maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended to 14 days on 20 January 2004 and subsequently up to 28 days with effect from 25 July 2006. The following table shows a breakdown of detention statistics compiled from police records covering the period 20 January 2004 to 31 December 2006.

Period of detention	Number of persons detained	Charged	Released without charge
10-20 days	55	45	10
20-27 days	0	0	0
27-28 days	6	3	3
Total	61	48	13

Terrorism

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1945W, on terrorism, when he expects to publish Lord Carlile of Berriew's report on the definition of terrorism. [130766]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 29 March 2007]*: Lord Carlile of Berriew's report was published on 15 March.

Terrorism Act 2000

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will break down by ethnicity the number of those *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000 since its inception. [129374]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 March 2007]*: The Home Office does not collate information on the ethnicity of individuals arrested, charged or convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 since 1 January 2006; and how many were held within 24 hours of the maximum allowable period. [129375]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 March 2007]*: Statistics compiled from police records show that from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006 156 arrests were made under the Terrorism Act 2000. The maximum period of detention pre-charge was extended to 28 days with effect from 25 July 2006.

Statistics compiled from police records show that from 25 July 2006 to 31 December 2006 six people have been held for 27-28 days.

Terrorism: Crime Prevention

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents have been reported to the anti-terrorism hotline since its introduction; and if he will make a statement. [129185]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 March 2007]*: Records of the number of calls received by the hotline have been kept from 1 January 2004. The total number of calls until 31 March 2007 was 9,474.

	Number of calls
2004	860
2005	[1]7,422
2006	929
2007[2]	263

[1] This figure includes the period 7 July 2005 until 8 August 2005 during which time 6,468 calls were recorded. This was in the immediate aftermath of the terror attacks on London on 7 July 2005.
[2] 1 January 2007 to 31 March 2007.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed to handle calls received by the anti-terrorism hotline. [129186]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 March 2007]*: The anti-terrorist hotline is staffed by two civilian staff and two police officers between the hours of 7 am and 6 pm, and outside these hours by one civilian staff and one police officer. The hotline is based within the Counter Terrorism Command at New Scotland Yard.

In the event of a major incident a contingency plan has been devised substantially to increase the capacity to answer incoming calls. This is an operational matter for the police. We cannot comment further.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those detained under the Terrorism Acts *(a)* were seeking asylum at the time of their detention and *(b)* have subsequently claimed asylum. [130815]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Terrorism: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000 were from (i) Lancashire and (ii) Ribble Valley. [130427]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 30 March 2007]*: The Home Office does not collate statistics by geographical or force area. From 11 September 2001 to 31 December 2006 there have been a total of 1,166 arrests of which 1,126 arrests were made under the Terrorism Act 2000 and 40 arrests under legislation other than the Terrorism Act, where the investigation was conducted as a terrorist investigation.

Of the 1,166 arrests, 117 were charged with terrorism legislation offences only, 104 were charged with terrorism legislation offences and other criminal offences and 186 were charged under other legislation. Of those charged, 40 were convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000 and 180 convicted under other legislation.

Terrorism: Telephone Services

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many telephone calls were received by the Anti-Terrorism Hotline in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [130808]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 29 March 2007]*: From the period 1 January to 31 March 2007, 263 calls were received by the Anti-Terrorism Hotline. From 1 January to 31 December 2006, 929 calls were received. A monthly breakdown is detailed in the table.

Monthly breakdown of calls received by the Anti-Terrorism Hotline

	2006	2007
January	69	52
February	75	52
March	52	159
April	60	—
May	49	—
June	65	—
July	91	—
August	180	—
September	130	—
October	65	—
November	51	—
December	42	—
Total	929	263

Tobacco: Young People

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for under-age tobacco sales there were in each year since 1997; and how many convictions resulted from these prosecutions. [130418]

Mr. McNulty: Data extracted from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice reform showing the number of defendants proceeded against and found guilty for under-age tobacco sales is shown in the following table.

Number of defendants prosecuted against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, for under-age tobacco sales, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005[1, 2]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
1997	130	112
1998	166	129
1999	127	102
2000	161	134
2001	117	90
2002	99	78
2003	117	93
2004	73	57
2005	88	69
Total	1,078	864

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Trespass

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested for trespass and *(b)* stopped by police on suspicion of trespassing in each of the designated areas established by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 since their designation. [129654]

Mr. Ingram: I have been asked to reply.

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 defines a "designated" site as meaning a site specified or described in an order by the Secretary of State. A "protected" site is defined as a nuclear site or a designated site. Therefore, all designated sites and nuclear licensed sites are protected sites.

There are a number of designated sites in the Ministry of Defence. They are:

Her Majesty's Naval base Clyde
Northwood Headquarters
RAF Brize Norton
RAF Croughton
RAF Fairford
RAF Feltwell
RAF Fylingdales
RAF Lakenheath
RAF Menwith Hill
RAF Mildenhall
RAF Welford
Royal Naval Armaments Depot Coulport
Sea Mounting Centre Marchwood.

In addition to the above designated sites the MOD has three protected (nuclear) sites at:

AWE Aldermaston
AWE Burghfield
HMNB Devonport.

Since 2005, 11 arrests have been made by the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) for trespass; one at Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston, two at RAF Menwith Hill and eight at RAF Lakenheath. No one has been stopped by the MDP on suspicion of trespass in any of the designated areas.

Victor Makarov

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will meet Mr. Victor Makarov, to discuss arrangements for his future security and well being in the UK. [131233]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 April 2007]*: Mr. Makarov's local police force are aware of his background and are best placed to offer advice.

Walking

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will launch a public awareness campaign to encourage people to walk more for health reasons. [118024]

Mr. Byrne: No.

This is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Health.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department further to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1769W, on work permits, to applicants of which 10 nationalities the most work permits carrying a potential entitlement to settlement in the UK were granted in *(a)* 2001 and *(b)* 2005. [126447]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on grants of settlement on the basis of employment are published annually in table 5.4 of the Command Paper entitled "Control of

Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". The latest edition is that for 2005. Copies are available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Work Permits: IT

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of work permit applications made by IT professionals were successful in the last period for which figures are available; and what percentage of work permits awarded in that period were granted to IT professionals. [129676]

Mr. Byrne: In 2006, 94 per cent. of work permit applications made by IT professionals were successful.

Work permits issued to IT professionals accounted for 23 per cent. of all work permits issued to individuals in 2006.

The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Young Offenders

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the population of *(a)* secure children's homes, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* young offender institutions was in each month since March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [130870]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures requested can be found in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Number held in secure children's homes, secure training centres, and young offender institutions March 2006 to February 2007

	Secure children's homes	*Secure training centres*	*Young offender institutions*
2006			
March	209	229	7,967
April	228	246	7,795
May	234	258	7,887
June	225	247	8,034
July	229	233	8,220
August	233	269	8,334
September	230	268	8,263
October	222	260	8,342
November	225	284	8,332
December	222	257	8,038
2007			
January	226	271	8,261
February	200	254	8,374

Notes:
1. Secure children's homes and secure training centres are for under 18-year-olds only. Young offender institutions also hold those aged 18+.
2. Secure children's home figures do not include young people placed by local authorities for welfare reasons

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls under the age of 18 years were received into young offenders institutions (i) under sentence and (ii) on remand in each year between 2000 and 2006. [131214]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of juvenile receptions into all prison establishments in England and Wales in each year from 2000 to 2005 can be found in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The figures given in this answer relating to the numbers of prisoners held in prison establishments have been drawn from administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system, and although shown to the last individual the figures may not be accurate to that level.

Receptions of under 18-year-olds into prison establishments in England and Wales 2000-05

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Male						
Under sentence	5,672	5,600	5,393	4,729	4,986	4,971
Remand	5,922	4,732	5,187	4,893	4,964	4,984
Female						
Under sentence	307	305	346	189	186	204
Remand	321	246	240	245	194	180

Source:
(i) 2000 to 2002, Prison Statistics in England and Wales;
(ii) 2002 to 2005, Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls were received into (i) secure training centres and (ii) local authority secure children's homes in each year between 2000 and 2006. [131215]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows information provided by the Youth Justice Board on the number of receptions of young people under 18 into secure training centres and secure children's homes in England and Wales in each year from 2002 to 2006. Figures for 2000 and 2001 are not available. The receptions into secure children's homes do not include children placed there by local authorities for welfare reasons.

Receptions of young people under 18 into secure children's homes and secure training centres, 2002-06

	Secure Training Centres			*Secure Children's Homes*		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
2002	636	271	907	1,877	430	2,307
2003	913	456	1369	1,823	358	2,181
2004	1,069	508	1577	1,647	312	1,959
2005	1,280	648	1929	1,592	394	1,986
2006	1,193	731	1924	1,548	300	1,848

Young Offenders: Prisoners on Remand

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of prisoners in young offenders institutions were on remand in each of the last 10 years. [126882]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* The number and percentage of juveniles and young adults who were on remand in prison establishments in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years can be found in the following table. Young offender institutions hold sentenced offenders, while those on remand are held in establishments under prison rules.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Young adults and under 18s on remand or under sentence in all prisons in England and Wales at 30 June

	Total on remand	Total under sentence	Total remand and sentenced	Remand as percentage of total
1997	2,973	7,698	10,671	28
1998	3,015	8,212	11,227	27
1999	2,935	8,025	10,960	27
2000	2,677	8,160	10,837	25
2001	2,325	8,315	10,640	22
2002	2,691	8,368	11,059	24
2003	2,393	8,563	10,956	22
2004	2,400	8,311	10,711	22
2005	2,400	8,291	10,691	22
2006	2,583	8,475	11,058	23
2007 (at 31 January)	2,669	8,874	11,543	23

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of prisoners in each young offenders institution are remand prisoners; and how many remand prisoners have been detained for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 60 days and *(c)* over 100 days. [126883]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* The number and proportion of juveniles and young adults who were on remand in prison establishments in England and Wales at 31 January 2007, and for the specified numbers of days, can be found in the following table. Young offender institutions hold sentenced offenders, while those on remand are held in establishments under prison rules.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. It is for this reason that the information is not provided by individual prison establishment, as the numbers are not necessarily accurate to this level of detail.

Young adults and under 18s on remand by length of time on remand, and proportion of total sentenced and remand population at 31 January 2007

	Number
Total	2,669
Less than or equal to 30 days	921
Over 30 days to less than or equal to 60 days	417
60 days to less than or equal to 100 days	468
Over 100 days	691
Unknown[1]	172
Proportion on remand	23.0

[1] Includes missing or inaccurate data contained on the database.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average period spent on remand by prisoners in young offenders institutions was in each of the last 10 years. [126920]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 14 March 2007]:* Information on the average time spent on remand by young adults and under 18s held in prison establishments in England and Wales between 1996 and 2006 can be found in the following table. Young offender institutions hold sentenced offenders, while those on remand are held in establishments under prison rules.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Average time spent on remand by young adult and under 18 year olds in prison establishments in England and Wales, 1996-2006

	Number of remand receptions	Average annual population	Average time spent on remand (days)
1996	19,890	2,941	54
1997	20,455	2,982	53
1998	21,639	2,936	50
1999	22,485	2,930	48
2000	22,099	2,607	43
2001	19,926	2,347	43
2002	20,688	2,558	45
2003	18,904	2,428	47
2004	17,956	2,415	49
2005	17,602	2,440	51
2006	17,602	2,634	55

Young Offenders: Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners aged 17 to 21 years were accommodated within the adult prison estate on (a) 1 March 2007 and (b) the first day of each of the previous 12 months, broken down by prison. [125669]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of male and female prisoners by the banded age groups aged 17-20 and aged 21 and over, held in prison establishments within England and Wales at the end of each month since February 2006, can be found in a table which has been placed in the Library. Many establishments include more than one unit.

The figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems and as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Youth Crime

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which non-governmental organisations his Department has funded in the last three years in relation to combating *(a)* gang culture, *(b)* youth crime and *(c)* street violence. [129441]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The Home Office funds a number of programmes focused on tackling gangs, youth crime and street violence.

The Connected Fund was established in May 2004 and provides small grants for community-based organisations working in this area. Details of the 300 organisations funded to date can be found on the Connected website at www.connected.gov.uk The sixth round of the Fund, focusing specifically on gangs, was launched on 1 March this year.

In addition, since 2004-05 the Home Office has provided grants to support the following organisations whose work is aimed at tackling youth crime, gun crime and gangs: Street Pastors, the Peace Alliance, Social Action Radio, Trident IAG, the Damilola Taylor Trust, Be Safe, Urban Concepts and Truce.

The Home Office has also provided funding for combating youth crime to: the Fostering Network, the Hampton Trust, the Trust for the Study of Adolescence, the Magistrates Association and Crime Concern (an independent, non-profit registered charity working to reduce crime). The Positive Futures Programme is currently managed nationally by Crime Concern and funded by the Home Office's Crime and Drug Strategy Directorate. There may also be other non-governmental organisations that have received indirect funding from the Home Office via bodies such as the Youth Justice Board or local youth offending teams.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 17 April 2007

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the funding of church repairs; and if he will make a statement. [131704]

Sir Stuart Bell: I regularly speak with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer about a range of church issues. On the issue of church repairs, we continue to engage with all levels of Government and press for the great contribution that churches and cathedrals make to their communities and the whole nation to be better reflected in the funds they receive from the state.

We were therefore very pleased that the Chancellor announced in his Budget statement that he and the Culture Secretary would in the run up to the Spending Review examine the help which Government could give to the churches.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Communities England

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been allocated for the annual *(a)* administrative costs and *(b)* total budget of Communities England. [129753]

Ruth Kelly: Communities England is expected to combine over £4 billion of public spending on housing and regeneration annually. This estimate is based on current budgets, with the final budget to be agreed as part of CSR07.

Compensation Payments

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 365W, on compensation payments, on what dates the damage to the hire vehicles occurred; what divisions of the Department hired the vehicles; what the purpose was of hiring the vehicles; and how the damage occurred. [129430]

Ruth Kelly: These compensation payments, made by the Communities and Local Government predecessor—Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)—relate to incidents which occurred on 30 July 2004, 17 February 2005 and 3 March 2005. The vehicles involved were hired by the ODPM's Local Government Beacon Councils Team, its Counselling Support Service and the Eastern Rent Assessment Panel for use in the normal course of business. The incidents involved damage to a bumper as a consequence of a vehicle being reversed into a post, damage incurred following a collision with another vehicle and a broken windscreen.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the amount of uncollected council tax in England in each of the last five years. [129761]

Ruth Kelly: The amount of council tax uncollected in England, in each of the last five years, is shown in the following table.

	Amount not collected (£ million)	*Amount not collected as percentage of net collectable debit*
1993-94	n/a	7.4
1994-95	n/a	6.6
1995-96	n/a	5.5
1996-97	n/a	4.7
1997-98	428	4.5
1998-99	463	4.4
1999-2000	507	4.4
2000-01	518	4.2
2001-02	518	3.9
2002-03	531	3.6
2003-04	582	3.5
2004-05	594	3.4
2005-06	592	3.2

The figures in the table show the amount of council tax in respect of the financial year not collected in that year. The final column shows this figure as a percentage of the net collectable debit in respect of that year's council taxes—i.e. the income authorities would collect if everyone liable paid, net of estimated receipts of council tax benefit.

Collection of council taxes continues once the financial year to which they relate has ended. This means that the amount not collected will eventually be lower than the figure shown above, and the final amount not collected as a percentage of net collectable debit will be somewhere between the figures shown here and zero. The data are as reported on QRC4 forms submitted by all billing authorities to Communities and Local Government each year.

Departmental Meetings

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1352W, on departmental meetings, if she will place in the Library a copy of the documentation produced *(a)* for and *(b)* by the stakeholder representatives at the meeting on 1 November 2006. [129432]

Ruth Kelly: Information relating to internal discussion is not normally disclosed as to do so could

harm the frankness and candour of discussion between Ministers, advisers and stakeholders.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* advertorials in newspapers or other publications in the latest year for which figures are available; and what the topic was of each publication. [129442]

Angela E. Smith: Where costs for supplements and advertorials are available they are as shown.

The Department has undertaken advertising and advertorials for the Home Information Pack take up campaign but the disaggregated costs could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Local E-Gov Take-Up campaign aimed at encouraging citizens to make greater use of on-line council services. There were two phases of advertising in 2006-07. The total spend across both phases was £1.6 million. Of this *(a)* £24,000 was spent on supplements and on *(b)* £193,580 was spent on advertorials.

The Female Fire Fighter Awareness campaign aimed at encouraging women to consider the Fire and Rescue Service as a viable career option. There was one burst of advertising in 2006-07. The total spend was £800,000. Of this *(a)* £5,000 was spent on advertorials and *(b)* £93,255 was spent in women's press titles.

The Fire Safety campaign aimed at reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries. Of the total spend of £3.3 million, the spend on advertorials was £6,860 that ran in the BME media.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many people in her Department and its predecessor participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement; [131540]

(2) how many people in her Department and its predecessor who undertook *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98, were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if she will make a statement. [131565]

Angela E. Smith: For details of the staff exit schemes run by the Department for Communities and Local Government and its main predecessor (the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) I refer the hon. Member to my earlier answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1785W.

Details of the numbers of staff in the department and its main predecessor (the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) exiting under these schemes, together with information on the lump sums payable to them on exit are set out as follows.

			Number undertaking exit schemes by compensation lump sum amounts				
	Scheme	*Total*	*£0 to £25,000*	*£25,001 to £50,000*	*£50,001 to £75,000*	*£75,001 to £100,000*	*Over £100,000*
2005-06	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: voluntary scheme	97	60	15	18	0	4
2006-07	Communities and Local Government: voluntary scheme	155	76	33	20	19	7
2006-07	Government offices for the regions: voluntary scheme	106	59	21	17	3	6
2006-07	Communities and Local Government—Marchington: involuntary scheme	[1]34	25	5	3	1	0
Total		392	220	74	58	23	17

[1] Of which 21 were voluntary exits and 13 involuntary exits.

The compensation paid is calculated using the Civil Service Compensation Scheme rules and is based on the category of exit (voluntary, involuntary, severance or retirement), age, years of eligible service and grade/pay band in the Department.

Numbers are grouped by compensation lump sum amounts received at exit. Each leaver departing after their 50th birthday is also eligible for a monthly compensation amount until they reach normal retirement age (age 60). The monthly compensation amount is based upon, but not equal to, the monthly pension payment in normal retirement.

Departments: Temporary Employment

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessor spent on temporary staff in 2005-06; and how many individual staff were employed on a temporary basis. [129749]

Ruth Kelly: In 2005-06 the Department and its predecessor spent just over £2.34 million on salaries for 166 casual staff and 17 staff appointed on fixed term contracts of less than one year. Over the same period payments were made to agency employees, but the extraction of this information would be at disproportionate cost.

Fire Stations: Rayleigh Weir

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the new fire station at Rayleigh Wier to be operational. [132247]

Angela E. Smith: Construction of the new fire station at Rayleigh Wier is expected to be completed by mid-2009 when the commissioning process will begin with a view to the fire station becoming operational by the end of 2009.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the average cost of a home information pack (HIP); what factors will determine the *(a)* cost and *(b)* price of a HIP; and if she will make a statement. [129757]

Ruth Kelly: The price of a home information pack will be set by the market, not by Government. The main components affecting costs are the searches and the energy performance certificate. Searches are already paid for in housing transactions at the moment and their cost varies substantially from area to area. Energy performance certificates are the only new element and could save buyers hundreds of pounds in fuel bills as well as having the potential to help them get access to green mortgages or grants from utility companies for energy saving improvements.

The price of HIPs will also be affected by the level of competition and economies of scale as well as factors such as the size and type of the property. At least one estate agent has said it will provide HIPs for free and others will provide them on a 'no sale, no fee' basis.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the requirement for home information packs will apply to homes put on the market prior to 1 June 2007 but whose sales have not reached completion before that date. [129762]

Ruth Kelly: Properties put on the market before 1 June 2007 will not be required to obtain a home information pack unless they remain on the market after 31 December.

Housing Data Warehouse

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1354W, on the Housing Data Warehouse, whether the data provided by the Valuation Office Agency include *(a)* address data, *(b)* names of the residents, *(c)* banding data on individual properties and *(d)* dwelling house code and value significant code data; [129465]

(2) what the purpose is of the Housing Data Warehouse; how much has been allocated to it for 2007-08; and which Government agencies and Departments will have access to it. [129743]

Ruth Kelly: The data provided by the Valuation Office Agency are limited to the address and council tax banding of domestic properties.

For the purpose of the Housing Data Warehouse I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1571W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

There is no specific allocation for the Housing Data Warehouse in 2007-08 as the running costs are contained within existing resources.

Only Communities and Local Government has direct access to the Housing Data Warehouse. There are no plans to extend direct access to other Government agencies or Departments. Specific requests for data from other Government agencies and Departments would be considered on a case by case basis and with regard to the need to avoid disclosure of personal information.

IPPR

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Government Office for *(a)* London and *(b)* the North East has provided to (i) the IPPR and (ii) IPPR Trading Ltd in each year since May 1997; and for what purpose. [125737]

Ruth Kelly: The Government Office for London used IPPR's services in 2004-05 when a member of staff attended an event organised by the company. The event was called "New challenges for race equality and community cohesion in the 21st century", which took place on 7 July 2004 and the cost of attendance was £58.75 including VAT. Other than that, the Government Office for London and the Government Office for the North East have not made any payments to IPPR or IPPR Trading Ltd through running cost or ODPM/CLG programme funding.

Financial records prior to 2003-04 are held on a different records system and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Local Authorities: Newspaper Press

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what matters local authorities have statutory obligations to place notices in local newspapers. [129748]

Ruth Kelly: We do not hold centrally, information on matters for which local authorities have statutory obligations to place notices in local newspapers.

Local Government

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written statement of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 71-73WS, on local government, what recent assessment she has made of the structure of local government across the whole of Lancashire. [131678]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State has made no assessment of the structure of local government across the whole of Lancashire other than those announced in my written statement of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 71-73WS.

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written statement of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 71-73WS, on local government, what her

assessment was of the joint bid for unitary status made by Burnley and Pendle borough councils against each of the five criteria. [131679]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's assessment against all five criteria, including affordability and value for money, are set out in Burnley and Pendle borough councils' decision letter of 27 March 2007. This is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/137/DecisionletterPendleandBurnleyBoroughCouncils_id1509137.pdf

Local Government Executive

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average effect on local government election turnout of an elected mayoral system being established in *(a)* the first year and *(b)* subsequent years. [129755]

Ruth Kelly: We have made no estimate of this. Details of local government election turnout each year in the 12 mayoral authorities since those authorities adopted mayors can be found in the Local Government Chronicle Election Handbook, published by university of Plymouth.

Local Government Finance: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level was of central Government grant to local government for social services in Chorley's local authority area in the most recent year for which figures are available. [110546]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The level of central Government formula grant to Lancashire county council which covers the Chorley area for services (including social services) for 2007-08 is £232.482 million (increase of £10.165 million or 4.6 per cent.). Formula grant is not hypothecated and decisions on how it is used are made locally. In addition, the Department has made available £33.714 million in respect of personal social services grants.

Local Government Reform

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1354W, on local government reform, whether local authorities which are not small districts but which adopted a committee structure as a fallback option after the executive model was voted down, will be allowed to continue with a committee structure. [129467]

Ruth Kelly: The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill provides that any authority currently operating alternative arrangements must move to executive arrangements where the resident population of the authority's area on 30 June 1999 was 85,000 or more.

Local Government: Training

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department is still supporting the Future Leadership programme. [129767]

Ruth Kelly: The Future Leadership hip programme was commissioned as an investment in leadership capacity in order to raise the long-term performance of local government. Since 2004, 353 people from across local government have completed the programme. In 2006-07 and 2007-08 a total of £3.5 million has been provided to regional improvement partnerships by the Department to enable them to purchase places on a suite of capacity-building programmes including the Future Leadership programme.

Population: Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individual written representations she has received about the statistics of the population of Slough; and how many of those were pre-printed postcards. [126330]

Mr. Woolas: Since November 2005, the Department has received 28 written representations that contain, in part or in full, issues relating to the population statistics for Slough.

In addition, since January 2007, the Department has received 86 pre-printed postcards and newsletter cut out response slips about the population statistics for Slough.

Sir Michael Lyons: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been paid to Sir Michael Lyons in expenses in relation to his work on his inquiry into local government. [127060]

Ruth Kelly: Since he started work on his inquiry in the autumn of 2004 Sir Michael has so far been paid expenses of £21,039.16 plus VAT. He is expected to submit a further claim relating to the final few months of his work.

Travelling People

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of unauthorised Gypsy Traveller caravans on unauthorised *(a)* developments and *(b)* encampments. [131235]

Meg Munn: The Department for Communities and Local Government publishes data on the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on authorised public and private sites, and unauthorised encampments and developments twice yearly. Copies of the latest publication "Count of Gypsy Caravans on 19 July 2006: Last Five Counts" have been distributed to the Libraries of the House. An electronic version is also available on the Department's website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1153575

Valuation Office: Databases

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much funding her Department and its predecessor has provided to the Valuebill project since its inception; and how much will be provided in the next 12 months; [129710]

(2) what the timetable is for the rollout of the Valuebill project; and how many local authorities are participating in Valuebill. [129760]

Ruth Kelly: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister allocated £2,660,950 of start up funding to the Valuebill project between 2002 and 2005 through the local e-government national projects programme. No further funding has been provided by my Department since then or will be provided in the next twelve months.

Lead responsibility for Valuebill rested initially with the London borough of Newham and now rests with London Connects. My Department does not hold information on the number of local authorities who are currently making use of Valuebill or when and if others may participate in the project. We are however aware of positive outcomes in participating authorities in terms of improved address data and the more timely billing, improved cash flow and reduced debt chasing that flows from that.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Legal Aid

26. **Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how her Department's plans to reform the legal aid system reflect the advice contained in the Otterburn report on criminal legal aid. [131531]

33. **Mr. Leech:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to reform the legal aid system to reflect the recommendations contained in the Otterburn report on criminal legal aid. [131538]

Vera Baird: The Government presented their plans for legal aid reform on 28 November last year.

The reform programme took account of over 2,000 responses to consultation, over 25 meetings which I had personally with legal aid practitioners as well as the conclusions of Mr. Otterburn's report to the LSC.

In the light of everything that was presented to us the Government made changes to the timing, sequencing and detail of a number of Lord Carter's original recommendations for legal aid reform.

The Government continue to consider and to take into account all evidence and consultation responses as we move forward on the detailed elements of our reform programme.

28. **John Robertson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of trends in the number of cases brought by offenders with custodial sentences which attract legal aid; and if she will make a statement. [131533]

Vera Baird: The eligibility for legal aid of those serving custodial sentences is no different from other members of society. Individuals will be eligible for legal aid if the matter is within scope and the individual satisfies the means test. There is therefore no specific monitoring of cases brought by those serving custodial sentences.

However, some form of legal aid is available exclusively to those serving custodial sentences. This is to cover advocacy assistance at prison discipline hearings and parole board hearings. The volume of cases where advice and assistance has been provided has risen from 11,263 in 2002-03 to 20,186 in 2005-06.

29. **Mr. Lancaster:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she next plans to meet representatives of the legal profession to discuss proposed changes to legal aid. [131534]

31. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she next plans to meet representatives of the legal profession to discuss proposed changes to legal aid. [131536]

Vera Baird: My Department and the Legal Services Commission regularly meet with legal aid practitioners as part of the ongoing consultations on the detail of implementation, and to discuss aspects of the reform programme.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what representations she has received on the eligibility for legal aid in criminal cases. [131528]

Vera Baird: Since the introduction of the new means test for criminal legal aid representation in the magistrates courts, which came into effect on 2 October 2006, I have received approximately 75 written representations from MPs, solicitors and members of the public, about eligibility for criminal legal aid.

Magistrates Courts

27. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what change is planned to the number of magistrates courts in 2007; and if she will make a statement. [131532]

Ms Harman: There are 360 magistrates courts in England and Wales. We are currently reviewing the provision of courts across England and Wales to consider access to justice, the most efficient use of public monies and the condition and facilities within courthouses.

Electoral Register

30. **Dr. Whitehead:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will take steps to place a duty on electoral registration officers to use all available databases to compile the electoral register. [131535]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a new duty to help Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) increase registration rates and compile a more accurate register. This duty includes:

Sending the annual canvass form more than once to any address;

Making house to house inquiries on one or more occasions; and

Inspecting any records that the ERO is permitted to inspect, such as council tax and housing databases.

And the good news for democracy is that the new duty is making a difference. I am pleased to say that as of 1 December 2006, the number of registered electors in the UK has increased by just over half a million.

Mediation

32. **Kali Mountford:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to encourage parents to go to mediation instead of court to resolve disputes over their children. [131537]

Ms Harman: The Government are committed to encouraging greater use of family mediation. We have established the Family Mediation Helpline and supporting website, sponsored a public awareness campaign, are facilitating judicial awareness seminars and supporting in-court referral schemes.

Provisions of the Children and Adoption Act 2006 will enable the court to direct parties in child contact disputes to attend a meeting about mediation. Referrals will also be encouraged through changes to court rules and court forms, particularly in relation to disputes over children.

Constitutions: Channel Islands

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the Channel Islands are part of the United Kingdom; and what their constitutional status is. [131746]

Bridget Prentice: The Channel Islands are not part of the United Kingdom. They are self-governing dependencies of the Crown, which—acting through its Privy Council—is responsible for their good governance. The UK is responsible for their defence and international relations, but the Channel Islands have their own directly elected legislative assemblies, administrative and fiscal systems and courts of law, and UK legislation does not apply to them unless specifically extended.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what rights and responsibilities are enjoyed by the Channel Islands under the terms of their relationship with the EU under Protocol 3 of the UK's treaty of accession. [131747]

Bridget Prentice: Under Protocol 3 of the UK's Treaty of Accession, the Channel Islands are part of the customs territory of the European Union. Consequently, the common customs tariff, levies and agricultural import measures apply to trade between the Islands and non-member countries. There is free movement of goods between the Islands and the member countries. Other Community Rules do not generally apply.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what rights and responsibilities are enjoyed by the Channel Islands under the terms of their relationship with the UK. [131748]

Bridget Prentice: The UK is constitutionally responsible for the defence and international representation of the Channel Islands. The Channel Islands make annual voluntary contributions towards the cost. As a more general principle, the Channel Islands have a right to respect for their autonomy in domestic affairs and a responsibility to give all reasonable assistance and co-operation to the UK in the exercise of its domestic and international responsibilities. The UK in turn has a right to expect this co-operation, and a responsibility to give all reasonable assistance to the Islands, and to respect their autonomy and work for its preservation. The most recent statement of the relationship between the UK and the Channel Islands is to be found in Part XI of Volume 1 of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Constitution (1973).

Courts: Pay

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the rate of local court staff turnover following implementation of the new pay system, broken down by region. [128608]

Ms Harman: The ongoing negotiations with the Trade Unions address a range of important issues, including how the new pay system will better enable the department to retain court staff. I will write to my right hon. Friend once the negotiations have been concluded.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what meetings took place between Ministers in her Department and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date of each such meeting was. [131026]

Ms Harman: Ministers in my Department meet a large number of people and groups in the course of their official duties. Between 1 January and 31 March 2007 these have included:

Date	*Group*	*Minister(s)*
8 January 2007	Which?	Baroness Ashton
8 January 2007	The Bar Council	Baroness Ashton
8 January 2007	The Law Society Regulation Board	Baroness Ashton
9 January 2007	National Association of Guardians Ad Litem and Reporting Officers	Harriet Harman
11 January 2007	Co-operative Legal Services	Bridget Prentice

Date	Group	Minister(s)
15 January 2007	Support After Murder and Manslaughter	Lord Falconer and Harriet Harman
15 January 2007	Mattocks Solicitors	Vera Baird
16 January 2007	National Youth Advocacy Service	Harriet Harman
17 January 2007	Mind; Mencap; Age Concern; Help the Aged; Royal College of Psychiatrists; English Community Care Association; Turning Point; National Autistic Society; Mental Health Foundation; Registered Nursing Home Association; Mental Health Alliance	Baroness Ashton
19 January 2007	Liberty	Baroness Ashton
19 January 2007	Four Communications	Baroness Ashton
24 January 2007	The Next Step Foundation	Bridget Prentice
24 January 2007	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	Lord Falconer
25 January 2007	General Medical Council; Age Concern; carers UK; Alzheimer's Society; RasCare; British Medical Association; Royal College of Psychiatrists; Mental Health Foundation; Mencap; Motor Neurone Disease Association; National Advisory Group on Learning Disabilities and Ethnicity; National Autism Society; Mind	Baroness Ashton
29 January 2007	The Bar Council	Lord Falconer
30 January 2007	Allen and Overy; Berwin Leighton Paisner; Clifford Chance; DLA Freshfields; Herbert Smith; Linklaters; Norton Rose; Slaughter and May; Simmons and Simmons; Pinsent Masons; Law Society; Bar Council; College of Law; The Sutton Trust	Lord Falconer
30 January 2007	UK Joint Economic Trade Committee	Baroness Ashton
5 February 2007	The Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys; The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys; AS Bias and Co	Baroness Ashton
6 February 2007	Association of Chief Police Officers	Lord Falconer
12 February 2007	Commission for Equality and Human Rights	Lord Falconer
19 February 2007	Fathers for Justice	Harriet Harman
20 February 2007	British Youth Council; The Electoral Commission; The Hansard Society; X-Change; National Children's Bureau; English Secondary School Association	Bridget Prentice
20 February 2007	Society of Editors	Baroness Ashton
21 February 2007	Law Society Solicitors' Regulation Authority; Law Society Legal Complaints Service	Bridget Prentice
21 February 2007	Earls Housing	Lord Falconer
22 February 2007	The Electoral Commission	Lord Falconer and Bridget Prentice
22 February 2007	UK Joint Economic Trade Committee; Arlington Abacus Solicitors	Baroness Ashton
22 February 2007	Rights and Humanity	Baroness Ashton
26 February 2007	Standing Together against Domestic Violence	Harriet Harman
26 February 2007	The Financial Times	Baroness Ashton
26 February 2007	The Telegraph Group	Lord Falconer
27 February 2007	The Council of Europe	Bridget Prentice
27 February 2007	The Guardian; The Independent; The Evening Standard; The Sunday Times; The Sunday Telegraph; The Daily Telegraph	Baroness Ashton
28 February 2007	The Law Commission	Vera Baird
28 February 2007	Coventry Youth Group	Bridget Prentice
1 March 2007	Legal Services Ombudsman	Bridget Prentice
5 March 2007	BBC; The Independent; ITN; Reuters; The Financial Times; The Guardian; Periodical Publishers Association; The Times	Baroness Ashton
7 March 2007	Four Communications	Baroness Ashton
8 March 2007	Bar Standards Board	Bridget Prentice
8 March 2007	Which?	Bridget Prentice
12 March 2007	ITN	Harriet Harman
12 March 2007	Law Centres Federation	Vera Baird
12 March 2007	Co-operative Insurance Services	Vera Baird
15 March 2007	Master of the Faculties; The Institute of Trademark Attorneys; The Association of Law Costs Draftsmen; Office of the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner; The Council for Licensed Conveyancers; Consumer Complaints Board; The Bar Standards Board; The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys; The Bar Council; The Solicitors Regulation Authority; The Law Society	Bridget Prentice
19 March 2007	The Coroners Society	Harriet Harman
19 March 2007	Clifford Chance; UK Joint Economic Trade Committee	Baroness Ashton
19 March 2007	Citizens Advice	Vera Baird
20 March 2007	Imkaan	Baroness Ashton
21 March 2007	Parliamentary Education Unit	Bridget Prentice
23 March 2007	Ashiana	Baroness Ashton
26 March 2007	Co-operative Legal Services	Bridget Prentice
26 March 2007	Bristol City College Student Group	Bridget Prentice
26 March 2007	The Guardian	Baroness Ashton
27 March 2007	The Law Society; The Bar Council	Bridget Prentice and Baroness Ashton
27 March 2007	The National Governors' Association	Baroness Ashton
27 March 2007	NHS Confederation	Baroness Ashton
28 March 2007	Hiraat	Baroness Ashton
28 March 2007	Interights	Baroness Ashton
28 March 2007	Equal Opportunity Commission; Amnesty; Employers Forum on Age; Employers Forum in Belief; Fawcett Society; Gender Trust; Help the Aged; Men's Aid; Opportunity Now; Runnymede Trust; Women's National Commission	Vera Baird
12 April 2007	Liberty	Baroness Ashton

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people in her Department and its predecessor participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [131541]

Ms Harman: The information is as follows:

(a) There have been no involuntary staff exit schemes since 1997-98.

(b) The number of employees who have taken voluntary early departure since 1997-98 is set out in the following table. These figures are for the period 1 April to 31 March.

	Early Retirement	Early Severance
1997	118	251
1998	24	45
1999	3	0
2000	2	1
2001	0	0
2002	0	0
2003	0	0
2004	3	1
2005	3	1
2006	76	58

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people in her Department and its predecessor who participated in (a) involuntary and (b) voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if she will make a statement. [131561]

Ms Harman: The information is as follows:

(a) There have been no payments made in respect of involuntary staff exit schemes since 1997-98.

(b) Information about redundancy costs for staff who left between 1997 and 2005 is not held centrally since departures were managed and funded locally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Information is available for the voluntary early departure schemes that were undertaken during 2006 to contribute towards the Department's Gershon efficiency target. This information is set out in the following table. These costs relate to the cost to the department which are higher than the payments individuals leaving on early retirement terms receive, as the department is liable for the cost of enhancement to pension and the cost of early payment of the lump sum.

April 2006-March 2007

	Early Retirement	Early Severance
£0 to £25,000	16	14
£25,001 to £50,000	9	12
£50,001 to £75,000	12	10
£75,001 to £100,000	10	10
Over £100,000	29	12

Lord Chancellor's Department: Official Residences

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many functions have taken place at a cost to the public purse in the Lord Chancellor's official residence since the Lord Chancellor took up residence; and what the occasion was of each function which incurred a cost to the public purse. [129843]

Ms Harman: Since taking up residence on 11 October 2006, there have been 16 official functions at a cost to the public purse. All functions comply with section 4.2 of the Ministerial Code.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Olympic Games

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the amount to be paid by taxpayers outside London towards the Olympics. [126638]

Tessa Jowell: I refer my hon. Friend to my statement of 15 March 2007 where I set out that up to £6.0 billion (including £2.7 billion of programme contingency funding) was being provided from the Exchequer to support the Olympic park, infrastructure and regeneration. This includes around £840 million to meet the Olympic Delivery Authority's liability for value added tax.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the annual expenditure profile is of the revised Olympics budget. [131408]

Tessa Jowell: This will be detailed in the Olympic Delivery Authority's Corporate Plan which they are currently developing and which they plan to publish by the end of the summer.

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the effect of the additional funding for elite athletes for the Olympic and Paralympic games in 2012 since it was announced in the 2006 Budget. [131675]

Mr. Caborn: The additional funding for elite sport, which was made available from 1 April last year, has enabled UK Sport to increase significantly the level of support for all Olympic and Paralympic sports (except football and tennis). In particular, it has allowed UK Sport to support those Olympic and Paralympic sports which had not previously received any high performance investment, including hockey, volleyball and handball.

While it is too soon to link the additional investment to recent successes, it is clear that this enhanced level of support is beginning to bear fruit. For example, since the additional investment was made available:

11 out of 12 sports with performance medal targets for their major championship either met or exceeded their medal count, agreed with UK Sport.

In the 11 sports which competed at world championship level in 2006, 23 medals were won in Olympic disciplines, including six world champions.

Particular successes include the British Paralympic swimming team, which came first in the medal table in the 2006 IPC World Swimming Championships in South Africa, and the British cycling squad who finished top of the medal table at the recent UCI World Track Cycling Championships in Mallorca, winning a total of 11 medals, seven of which were gold. Team GB also came first in the medal table at the 29th European

Indoor Athletics Championships in Birmingham with a haul of 10 medals, including four golds.

UK Sport's investment strategy is also having a major impact on the professionalism and governance of British Olympic and Paralympic sports. At the time of the Budget announcement, UK Sport introduced a series of 'Funding Triggers' aimed at ensuring that the National Governing Bodies are all 'fit for purpose' to receive public funding and that the sport is able to deliver its agreed targets.

Television: Broadcasting Reception

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the account taken of the impact of new development on television reception in the planning system. [131667]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: There has been no recent discussion with the Department for Communities and Local Government on this matter.

Guidance to local planning authorities on this issue can be found in Planning Policy Guidance 8 (PPG 8): Telecommunications and is available from the Department for Communities and Local Government. This is supplemented by guidance available from the BBC, Ofcom and the transmission operators.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Discharges

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outflow was from the regular Army for each year since 2001, broken down by *(a)* rank of officer and *(b)* other ranks. [131696]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is as follows:

Army UK regular forces outflow[1] from trained strength to civil life by rank and financial year

Number/percentage

	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Number	*Rate[2]*	*Number*	*Rate[2]*	*Number*	*Rate[2]*	*Number*	*Rate[2]*	*Number*	*Rate[2]*
Army	*9,990*	*10.4*	*9,670*	*10.0*	*9,570*	*9.7*	*10,740*	*10.8*	*10,500*	*10.7*
Officers	900	*7.0*	800	*6.1*	780	*5.8*	900	6.6	980	*7.1*
Brigadier and above	40	14.8	30	12.9	30	12.7	30	12.5	20	10.5
Colonel	60	12.2	60	10.0	40	7.6	60	10.3	80	13.0
Lieutenant Colonel	150	9.0	150	8.7	150	8.8	150	8.5	160	9.5
Major	330	7.4	290	6.3	280	5.9	320	6.8	340	7.0
Captain	290	6.9	260	5.9	260	5.7	310	6.9	360	7.8
Lieutenant/2nd Lieutenant	30	1.9	20	1.3	20	1.1	30	1.6	20	1.1
Other ranks	9,090	*10.9*	8,870	*10.6*	8,790	*10.3*	9,840	*11.4*	9,520	*11.3*
Warrant Officer[1]	300	17.3	300	17.2	290	16.2	350	19.5	380	21.4
Warrant Officer[2]	520	10.5	580	11.9	510	10.4	600	12.2	700	14.5
Staff Sergeant	480	7.9	520	8.5	450	7.4	530	8.7	650	10.7
Sergeant	690	6.7	600	5.9	540	5.2	700	6.7	800	7.8
Corporal	1,180	7.4	1,140	7.2	1,050	6.5	1,190	7.4	1,240	7.8
Lance Corporal	1,450	9.2	1,500	9.2	1,580	9.8	1,720	10.6	1,680	10.5
Private (Classes 1-3)	4,260	15.4	3,990	14.5	4,000	14.1	4,370	15.1	3,870	13.7
Private (Class 4)	210	20.9	250	20.5	370	23.8	380	24.9	200	22.4

1 Figures show all outflow from Army UK Regular Forces including recalled reservists on release and outflow to the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment. Figures do not include promotion from ranks to officer or crossflows into Royal Navy or Royal Air Force.
2 Annual rates are calculated by taking the number of exits as a percentage of the average trained strength (defined as a 13-month rolling average of the trained strength in the individual months) of each rank (or totals thereof).
Note:
Due to the founding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When founding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. Percentages are calculated from unrounded figures.
Source:
DASA (Tri-Service)

Outflow figures from each service are published monthly by DASA in Tri Service Publication (TSP) 5, which can be accessed from the following web page:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp5/gennotes.html

Army: Official Hospitality

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much was spent on entertainment by the Chief of the General Staff in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006, broken down by event; [118171]

(2) how much was spent on entertainment by the Adjutant General in (a) 2005 and (b) 2006, broken down by event. [118172]

Derek Twigg: The Chief of the General Staff and his immediate predecessor incurred £22,378.03 of expenditure for official entertainment in 2005 and £21,214.25 in 2006. This includes the cost of hotel accommodation for visiting dignitaries and their immediate staff where appropriate. The events were:

		£
15 February 2005	Lunch with Chef d'Etat-Major de l'Armee de Terre, France	349.63
9-11 March 2005	Visit of Chief of Staff Japan Ground Defence Force	5,761.53
14 March 2005	Lunch with Commander, Royal Army of Oman	57.83
26-28 April 2005	Visit of Chief of the Australian Army	3,385.97
22- 26 May 2005	The Kermit Roosevelt Lecture Tour	2,831.54
4-8 July 200	Visit of Chief of the Army Staff India	8,991.53
7 February 2006	Lunch with Chief of the General Staff, Italy	504.00
15 March 2006	The Friends of the Army Dinner	1,532.79
21 -25 May 2006	The Kermit Roosevelt Lecture Tour	6,167.23
21 June 2006	Lunch with Chief of the Defence Staff New Zealand	129.55
16-20 July 2006	Visit of Vice Chief of the Army Staff Pakistan	6,187.67
12-15 September 2006	Visit of Chief of the South African Army	6,134.01
12 December 2006	Lunch with Chief of the General Staff Sweden	559.00

The Adjutant General spent £1,840.14 on 14 events in 2005 and £1,741.55 on 17 events in 2006. A breakdown is set out in the following tables.

2005

Date	Cost (£)	Function	Event/reason
22 February 2005	147.74	Dinner	Senior Military two star officer visit
24 February 2004	113.40	Dinner	Unit cohesiveness—Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff (Commitments)
13 March 2005	118.57	Dinner	Unit cohesiveness—SO1 Directorate of Military Outplacement Services
16 August 2005	83.00	Dinner	Unit cohesiveness—civilian and military staff within Headquarters Adjutant General and wider Ministry of Defence
30 August 2005	105.14	Dinner	Hon. Member for Gosport (Peter Viggers) and Navy 3-star officer
14 September 2005	113.70	Dinner	Senior civilian and military staff and television producer
21 September 2005	47.72	Lunch	Working lunch—Royal Centre for Defence Medicine and operational welfare focus
28 September 2005	113.67	Dinner	Visit of Chief of the General Staff to Director General Army Recruiting and Training and Headquarters
11 October 2005	129.00	Dinner	Director National Army Museum and Army Heritage senior representatives
16 November 2005	332.14	Dinner	Headquarters Adjutant General 1-star officer group
2 November 2005	135.01	Dinner	Director Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Families Association and Army 3-star officer with Personal Services 4 (Army) grouping (welfare)
18 November 2005	139.26	Inf Dinner	Representatives from Headquarters Adjutant General
24 November 2005	111.17	Inf Dinner	Visit of Bishop of Salisbury (personnel issues)
1 December 2005	150.62	Dinner	Visit of 2nd Sea Lord
Total	1,840.14		

2006

Date	Cost (£)	Function	Event/reason
16 January 2006	145.38	Dinner	1 x Army 3-star officer, 5 x Army 2-star officer
23 January 2006	110.20	Dinner	Visit of Master General of Ordnance
13 February 2006	77.97	Dinner	Visit of Quarter Master General with Director Army Legal Services and Senior Defence Lecturer, Cranfield
20 February 2006	76.37	Dinner	Army 3-star officer and senior civilian representatives
1 March 2006	88.19	Dinner	Visit of Senior Minister of the Catholic Group (Armv)
30 March 2006	95.44	Dinner	Visit of Assistant Chief General Staff
27 April 2006	120.07	Dinner	Military and civilian staff Headquarters Adjutant General
8 May 2006	127.42	Dinner	Visit of Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel) and senior officers concerned with welfare/personnel issues
12 June 2006	108.09	Dinner	Visit of CinC Land Command
23 August 2006	139.75	Dinner	Visit of Judge Advocate General and hosting of Private Secretary to TRH Princes William and Harry
31 August 2006	78.63	Dinner	Visit of Governor Royal Hospital Chelsea
12 September 2006	115.31	Dinner	Visit of Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Reserves and Cadets) regarding Territorial Army soldiers operational and welfare needs
4 October 2006	84.93	Dinner	Visit of Chief Constable Wiltshire Constabulary
17 October 2006	113.10	Dinner	Sir Max Hastings, Gen Sir Mike Jackson, Sir Ronnie Hempel and Senior Military personnel
15 October 2006	99.99	Dinner	Visit of Minister of State for Armed Forces and Member for Air Personnel.
16 November 2006	8.80	Breakfast	Minister of State for Armed Forces
21 November 2006	131.91	Dinner	Visit of Chief Constable Hampshire Constabulary (enhancement of relations and working best practice)
Total	1,741.55		

All expenditure on official entertainment is subject to strict departmental rules and compliance with the principles of propriety set out in Government Accounting.

Type 45 Destroyers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by when he expects to agree an acceptable price for the seventh and eighth Type 45 destroyers. [131769]

Mr. Ingram: No decision has yet been made to order the seventh and eighth Type 45 destroyers. A number of factors will be taken into account as part of the decision making process including affordability, value-for-money, and the wider context of the Defence Industrial Strategy.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Conduct

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants have been found to be in breach of Civil Service Code provisions relating to dealings with Parliament since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [131160]

Hilary Armstrong: Information is not collected in the format requested.

Delivery Unit

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Government *(a)* projects and *(b)* policy areas her Delivery Unit is reviewing. [131343]

Hilary Armstrong: The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit works in partnership with No. 10, other parts of the Cabinet Office, the Treasury and stakeholder departments, to assess delivery of PSA targets on Health, Education, Home Affairs, and Local Area Agreements. The Unit also provides performance management for key delivery areas.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will list the names of all delivery teams in the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit. [131344]

Hilary Armstrong: The Unit has worked most closely with the Department of Health, Home Office, Department for Constitutional Affairs, the Department for Education and Skills and Communities and Local Government. Accordingly, the Unit's current delivery teams are organised around the following policy areas:

Justice
Asylum and Migration
Local Area Agreements
Health
Education

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which projects the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit's Commissioned Projects Team has reviewed in the last 12 months. [131346]

Hilary Armstrong: The PMDU commissioned project team organised the two Public Service Reform conferences hosted by the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers in June 2006 and March 2007, and assisted other government departments to support them in delivering education, health, home affairs and social exclusion targets and to facilitate cross government working more generally.

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by her Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130148]

Hilary Armstrong: Information about the political activity of appointees is recorded and publicised in accordance with the independent Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. This shows that the following former hon. Member who left Parliament in 2005 has since been appointed to a public body now sponsored by the Cabinet Office. The information requested is shown in the table.

Name:
Chris Pond

Party:
Labour

Appointing authority:
Secretary of State for the Home Office

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in her Office who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if she will make a statement. [131556]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office, which includes the Prime Minister's Office, approved departures under voluntary exit schemes in each of the financial years since 1997 as follows:

1 April to 31 March:	*Number of employees*
1997-98	0
1998-99	0
1999-2000	4
2000-01	6
2001-02	3
2002-03	10
2003-04	35
2004-05	1
2005-06	4
2006-07	1
Total	64

The Cabinet Office has not held involuntary exit schemes in any of these years.

The Cabinet Office aims to ensure that it has a diverse and skilled workforce to meet its business needs. Voluntary departures schemes are one of the tools it uses, as an alternative to redundancy, to reduce headcount, to refresh skills and to tackle staff surpluses. The criteria for such schemes are governed by the Civil Service Compensation Scheme, which provides compensation to civil servants who leave via an exit scheme before their pension age.

Information on costs of voluntary departure schemes is available only at disproportionate cost.

Social Exclusion

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on tackling social exclusion. [131402]

Hilary Armstrong: I have regular discussions with all my ministerial colleagues at the Department for Education and Skills (DFES). The Social Exclusion Task Force works closely with DFES on many of its initiatives to tackle exclusion. Currently, DFES is making an important contribution to the Nurse-Family Partnership pilots, which are testing a model of early identification and preventive health led intensive home visiting as a means to reduce the risk of social exclusion in later life.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children's Centres

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the criteria are for deciding the location of children's centres; and whether he expects such centres to be established in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [131419]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities have been issued with planning guidance that sets out the criteria for the location of children's centres. We have asked them to ensure that all children under five in the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged areas of England have access to integrated Sure Start services by 2008. These areas are defined by super output areas as developed by the Office for National Statistics. The exact location within these areas is determined by local authorities in consultation with local partners. When appropriate plans have been made to serve the most disadvantaged areas with children's centre services, the local authority then has the flexibility to decide where to locate further centres according to the resources available.

There are currently 10 designated children's centres in East Sussex, including two in Eastbourne. By 2010 there will be a children's centre serving every community in England.

Children's Centres: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to his answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1391W, on children's centres, on what grounds he decided that *(a)* history, *(b)* geography, *(c)* science, *(d)* design and technology, *(e)* citizenship and *(f)* personal, social and health education were content heavy. [131272]

Jim Knight: Prior to asking the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) to review the secondary curriculum, the clear view of subject communities and those involved with young people reported that they wanted to see less content in history, geography, science, design and technology, citizenship and personal, social and health education. The QCA also expressed the view that the programmes of study in those subjects were too prescriptive.

City Academies

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence took place between his Department and the Prime Minister's Office on the target for academies to be created by 2010 prior to the Prime Minister's announcement on 30 November 2006 that the target was being doubled from 200 to 400 by 2010. [131294]

Jim Knight: There was a range of discussions and correspondence between the Department and the Prime Minister's office, prior to this announcement.

Class Sizes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* Key Stage 1 and *(b)* Key Stage 2 pupils were taught in classes of (i) 29-30 and (ii) over 30 in each year since 1997. [131289]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the table.

Maintained primary schools [1]: Classes as taught [2] 1997-2006 position in January each year—England

	Key Stage 1 [3]				*Key Stage 2*			
	29-30 pupils		*Over 30 pupils*		*29-30 pupils*		*Over 30 pupils*	
	Number of pupils	*Percentage*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage*
1997	363,335	22.1	476,822	29.0	466,443	22.7	779,532	37.9
1998	376,292	22.7	485,311	29.3	481,578	23.1	832,668	39.9
1999	395,578	24.3	356,586	21.9	503,066	23.7	835,257	39.4
2000	469,639	29.1	176,962	11.0	521,701	24.5	814,309	38.2
2001	537,218	34.1	35,813	2.3	545,774	25.3	747,091	34.6
2002	556,719	35.9	10,263	0.7	541,266	25.6	635,819	30.1
2003	563,054	38.6	16,367	1.1	537,535	26.7	550,615	27.4
2004	574,324	39.5	20,727	1.4	549,488	27.5	509,963	25.5

Maintained primary schools [1]: Classes as taught [2] 1997-2006 position in January each year—England

	Key Stage 1[3]				Key Stage 2			
	29-30 pupils		Over 30 pupils		29-30 pupils		Over 30 pupils	
	Number of pupils	Percentage	Number of pupils	Percentage	Number of pupils	Percentage	Number of pupils	Percentage
2005	554,968	38.8	22,077	1.5	572,352	28.6	498,546	24.9
2006	546,558	39.2	28,074	2.0	588,047	29.9	477,481	24.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed
[2] Classes as taught during a single selected period on the day of the census in January each year
[3] From 2003 Reception classes have been returned alongside Nursery classes as Foundation stage. Reception classes have been included in Key Stage 1 numbers for 2003 and later to produce a coverage as close as possible to that available for previous years.
Source:
School Census

Departments: Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what databases are controlled by his Department and its agencies; and what percentage of the data in each database he estimates is inaccurate or out of date. [124040]

Mr. Dhanda: The information as requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Education and Skills. To respond fully would involve an extensive internal and external information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many people in his Department participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement; [131543]

(2) how many people in his Department who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [131563]

Mr. Dhanda: There have been no involuntary exit schemes in the Department since 1997 and we remain committed to minimising recourse to compulsory redundancies. The Department has managed part of its staff reductions through voluntary early releases.

From the 1997-98 financial year to the end of the 2006-07 financial year, the total number of such releases were as follows:

	Number of releases
1997-98	101
1998-99	51
1999-00	50
2000-01	61
2001-02	84
2002-03	57
2003-04	28
2004-05	332
2005-06	204
2006-07	156

Information on individual voluntary exit scheme payments to staff for each of those years is not available in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance: North East Region

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what percentage of young people in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency and *(b)* Tees Valley sub-region received (i) £30, (ii) £20 and (iii) £10 in education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme began; [129785]

(2) what percentage of young people in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency and *(b)* Tees Valley sub-region received education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme began. [129787]

Phil Hope: These are matters for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) scheme for the DfES and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 11 April 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Questions that asked:

"What percentage of young people in (a) Hartlepool constituency and (b) Tees Valley sub-region received (i) 30, (ii) 20 and (iii) 10 in education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme began" and; "What percentage of young people in (a) Hartlepool constituency and (b) Tees Valley sub-region received education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme began?"

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

The following tables show EMA take-up data split by payment band for Hartlepool Local Authority area and Tees Valley LSC during each academic year since the scheme's inception.

Take-up of EMA in each academic year—2004/05

	Hartlepool		Tees Valley	
Band	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
£30	838	82	4,049	81
£20	84	8	402	8
£10	100	10	524	11
Total	1,022	—	4,975	—

Take-up of EMA in each academic year—2005/06

	Hartlepool		Tees Valley	
Band	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
£30	958	83	5,875	82
£20	103	9	667	9
£10	91	8	642	9
Total	1,152	—	7,184	—

Take-up of EMA in each academic year—2006/07 to end February

	Hartlepool		Tees Valley	
Band	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
£30	1,196	84	7,504	83
£20	124	9	806	9
£10	98	7	715	8
Total	1,418	—	9,025	—

In the first year of national roll out EMA was available to all 16 year olds across England and to 17 and 18 year olds in former pilot areas (young people who are 19 are entitled to receive EMA in certain circumstances). In 2005/06 EMA roll out continued and EMA was available to all 16 and 17 year olds nationally. In 2006/07 EMA is available to all 16, 17 and 18 year olds nationally. In calculating the percentage of young people receiving EMA only take up and population figures for age groups where EMA was available nationally have been used. The fall-off in later years reflects that age groups are included that are less likely to be in education.

The following table shows the percentage of young people receiving EMA in Hartlepool Local Authority area and Tees Valley LSC during each academic year since national roll out.

Percentage of population receiving EMA in each academic year

	Hartlepool	*Tees Valley*
2004/05 (16 year olds only)	45	40
2005/06 (16 and 17 year olds)	41	37
2006/07 to end February (16, 17 and 18 year olds)	37	32

I hope this information is useful and addresses your question.

Education: Finance

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school education in (i) Hartlepool constituency, (ii) the Tees Valley sub-region, (iii) the North East region and (iv) England in each year since 1992. [130910]

Jim Knight: Hartlepool constituency falls within the Hartlepool local education authority. The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Primary school-based expenditure

£

	Hartlepool local authority	*Tees Valley sub-region*	*North East Government office region*	*England*
1992-93	—	—	—	—
1993-94	—	—	—	—
1994-95	—	—	—	—
1995-96	—	—	—	—
1996-97	—	—	—	—
1997-98	—	—	—	—
1998-99	—	—	—	—
1999-2000	16,948,000	127,977,000	444,482,000	8,602,543,000
2000-01	19,528,000	139,430,000	483,885,000	9,425,272,000
2001-02	23,721,000	158,342,000	544,838,000	10,495,632,000
2002-03	22,301,000	154,746,000	537,799,000	10,584,953,000
2003-04	23,874,000	165,584,000	572,380,000	11,379,539,000
2004-05	25,002,000	171,844,000	596,563,000	11,900,153,000
2005-06	27,417,000	185,581,000	638,133,000	12,721,978,000

Pre-primary and primary school-based expenditure

£

	Hartlepool local authority	*Tees Valley sub-region*	*North East Government office region*	*England*
1992-93	—	—	358,931,000	6,271,959,000
1993-94	—	—	368,510,000	6,526,507,000
1994-95	—	—	377,229,000	6,770,737,000
1995-96	—	—	385,323,000	6,986,793,000
1996-97	13,998,000	—	390,120,000	7,219,481,000
1997-98	14,696,000	106,089,000	387,380,000	7,277,910,000
1998-99	16,022,000	113,386,000	412,727,000	7,834,434,000
1999-2000	17,197,000	130,222,000	458,999,000	8,842,996,000
2000-01	19,844,000	143,049,000	502,500,000	9,761,443,000
2001-02	24,460,000	164,016,000	571,112,000	10,918,773,000
2002-03	—	—	—	—
2003-04	—	—	—	—
2004-05	—	—	—	—
2005-06	—	—	—	—

Secondary school-based expenditure

£

	Hartlepool local authority	*Tees Valley sub-region*	*North East Government office region*	*England*
1992-93	—	—	387,941,000	6,236,710,000
1993-94	—	—	363,735,000	5,638,500,000
1994-95	—	—	372,926,000	5,552,916,000
1995-96	—	—	382,592,000	5,592,544,000
1996-97	12,851,000	—	388,136,000	5,714,559,000
1997-98	13,436,000	95,446,000	393,033,000	5,775,271,000
1998-99	14,656,000	100,463,000	412,503,000	6,049,029,000
			447,884,578	
1999-2000	15,833,000	111,963,000	447,885,000	8,257,736,000
2000-01	18,952,000	125,843,000	496,833,000	9,093,526,000
2001-02	22,096,000	141,462,000	557,576,000	10,261,440,000
2002-03	21,855,000	143,151,000	569,583,000	10,621,927,000
2003-04	25,306,000	154,898,000	631,797,000	11,768,559,000
2004-05	25,868,000	161,275,000	672,642,000	12,603,303,000
2005-06	27,235,000	172,192,000	718,537,000	13,480,547,000

Notes

1. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of section 52 for financial year 1999-2000. School based expenditure in local authority maintained nursery schools was not recorded in 2002-03 and comparable figures are not available for 2003-04 onwards.

2. School-based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure. Central local authority expenditure cannot, in all cases, be attributed to a particular phase of education and consequently is excluded from the tables.

3. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the section 52 form from the DfES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables. The change in sources is shown by the blank row.

4. The calculation for 2002-03 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years. However, 2001-02 and earlier years includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses. In 2001-02, this accounted for approximately £70 per pupil. From 2002-03 onwards, only the schools element of these categories is included and this accounted for approximately £50 per pupil of the 2002-03 total. Also, for some local authorities, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the central local authority part of the form from 2002-03, though this is not quantifiable from existing sources.

5. Local government reorganisation (LGR) prior to the 1996-97 financial year in the county of Cleveland resulted in the creation of four new unitary local authorities (Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees). Consequently figures for Hartlepool LA are not available prior to 1996-97.

6. The Tees Valley sub-region comprises of the four unitary authorities created by the local government reorganisation of the county of Cleveland in 1996 (namely Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees LAs) along with the borough of Darlington which became a unitary authority in 1997. Consequently figures for the Tees Valley sub-region are not available prior to the 1997-98 financial year.

7. Spending in 1997-98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central Government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998-99.

8. The 1999-2000 figures reflect the return of grant maintained schools to local authority maintenance.

9. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 2 April 2007.

Educational Attainment

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils at the end of key stage 4 attending *(a)* maintained secondary schools and *(b)* independent secondary schools achieved each grade in GCSE (i) English, (ii) mathematics, (iii) a modern foreign language, (iv) history and (v) geography in each year since 1996. [117653]

Jim Knight: This information has been placed in the House Library.

English Language: Asylum

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many failed asylum seekers took English for Speakers of Other Languages courses in each London borough in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [130991]

Bill Rammell: Currently all English for Speakers of Other Languages learners are eligible for full fee remittance and this includes asylum seekers. However, those refused asylum and not granted leave to remain are not eligible for Learning and Skills Council funded provision.

Extended Schools: Tees Valley

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency and *(b)* Tees Valley sub region offer extended hours; what activities are provided in the schools offering extended hours; and if he will make a statement. [131361]

Jim Knight: There are five primary schools and three secondary schools in the constituency of Hartlepool providing access to the extended schools full core offer of services. In the Tees Valley area there are 104 primary schools and 31 secondary schools providing access to the full core offer of services. The core offer includes primary schools providing access to childcare from 8 am to 6 pm all year round in response to demand, all schools offering access to a range of study support activities beyond the school day, parenting support, swift and easy referral and opening up facilities to the wider community.

As well as the schools already delivering the extended schools full core offer, a further seven primary schools in Hartlepool and 37 primary schools in the Tees Valley provide access to childcare and a further 27 schools in Hartlepool and 55 schools in the Tees Valley provide access to a varied menu of study support activities. The Department does not collect data on the range of study support activities but these typically include homework clubs, sporting activities, music and drama clubs.

By 2010 all schools in England will be offering the extended school core offer of services.

Free School Meals

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the reliability of free school meal take-up rates as an indicator of the level of deprivation among pupils within a school; and if he will make a statement. [131590]

Mr. Dhanda: Free school meal rates give a broad indication of the level of deprivation among pupils attending a particular school. FSM information is collected by schools and accurately records pupils who are known by the school to be eligible for and claiming free school meals. The criteria for FSM eligibility are consistent across schools nationally.

When assessing the level of deprivation among pupils within schools, the Department makes use of a range of different deprivation indicators. free school meals is an important indicator because it is the only one which reflects the actual home situation of individual pupils. Other indicators of deprivation, such as the Index of Multiple Deprivation, the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), or ACORN categories, cannot directly identify pupils who are living in deprived households as they are only available on an "area" basis. These other indicators are used by linking to pupils indirectly through their home postcodes, and therefore can only reflect the extent to which pupils live in deprived areas.

In certain contexts such as the calculation of contextual value added scores in the achievement and

attainment tables, FSM is used together with an area-based indicator (IDACI) so that the two indicators together give a rounded picture of the levels of deprivation affecting each school.

Further Education

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the successful completion rate was for further education courses in each year from 2001 to 2006. [131159]

Bill Rammell: Success rates for LSC-funded provision delivered through FE colleges and external institutions are detailed in the following table. Data for 2005/06 are not yet available but will be published later this month.

	Percentage	
	FE colleges	*External institutions*
2000/01	59	57
2001/02	65	61
2002/03	68	62
2003/04	72	65
2004/05	75	66

Targets for FE college learner success rates have been set at 76 per cent. by 2007/08 with a further stretch to 80 per cent. by 2010/11.

Success rates for LSC-funded work-based learning (WBL) courses are shown in the following table. Again, data for 2005/06 will be published later this month.

	Work-based learning (Percentage)
2000/01	n/a
2001/02	36
2002/03	41
2003/04	46
2004/05	53

n/a = Not available.

Data on successful completion rates are not available for adult and community learning or for school sixth forms.

GCE A Level: Classics

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which maintained secondary schools in England offer A level courses in *(a)* Latin and *(b)* Ancient Greek; and if he will make a statement. [127981]

Jim Knight: The information required to answer the question is not available.

GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1912, on languages, how many of the schools that entered no pupils for a GCSE in history and geography entered a pupil for a GCSE in humanities. [126831]

Jim Knight: The following table lists the maintained mainstream schools where no pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 (KS4) were entered at GCSE in history and geography but did enter pupils in humanities and gives the number of pupils entered for humanities as well as the number at the end of KS4 who attended these schools in 2006.

LA number	*Estab. number*	*LA name*	*School name*	*Number of pupils at end of KS4*	*Humanities entries*
826	5400	Milton Keynes	Stantonbury Campus	512	458
826	4085	Milton Keynes	Sir Frank Markham Community School	291	260
316	4034	Newham	Eastlea Community School	197	192
331	4039	Coventry	Ernesford Grange Community School A Specialist Science College	200	177
344	4017	Wirral	Park High School	192	172
340	4014	Knowsley	Prescot School	177	167
830	4103	Derbyshire	Frederick Gent School	174	167
320	4063	Waltham Forest	Heathcote School	156	153
845	4062	East Sussex	Eastbourne Technology College	176	149
335	4100	Walsall	Darlaston Community Science College	206	147
886	5421	Kent	The Canterbury High School	183	146
919	4029	Hertfordshire	Adeyfield School	145	126
352	4286	Manchester	Newall Green High School	180	124
892	4460	Nottingham	The River Leen School	149	103
928	5406	Northamptonshire	Manor School and Sports College	117	103
925	4067	Lincolnshire	Queen Eleanor Technology College	104	100
909	4304	Cumbria	The Alfred Barrow School	91	69
886	5419	Kent	Angley School—A Sports College	182	61
211	4284	Tower Hamlets	Bethnal Green Technology College	165	53
812	4008	North East Lincolnshire	Havelock School	130	45
373	4228	Sheffield	Waltheof School	207	39
380	4041	Bradford	Belle Vue Girls' School	162	39
846	4022	Brighton and Hove	Palmer High School	133	26

LA number	Estab number	LA name	School name	Number of pupils at end of KS4	Humanities entries
925	5419	Lincolnshire	The Grantham Church (VA) High School	71	24
335	6905	Walsall	Walsall Academy	54	22
925	4609	Lincolnshire	St. Clements College	207	19
916	5413	Gloucestershire	Central Technology College	93	14
831	4608	Derby	da Vinci Community College	91	13
886	6906	Kent	The Marlowe Academy	82	3

Data for 2006 are revised.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1912W, on languages, which of the schools that entered no pupils for a GCSE in history or geography also entered no pupils for a GCSE in humanities. [126832]

Jim Knight: The following table lists the maintained mainstream schools where no pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 (KS4) were entered at GCSE in history and humanities or no pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 (KS4) were entered at GCSE in geography and humanities and gives the number of pupils entered for history and geography and the number at the end of KS4 who attended these schools in 2006.

LA number	Estab number	LA name	School name	Number of pupils at end of KS4	History entries	Geography entries
371	4020	Doncaster	North Doncaster Technology College	248	58	0
888	4042	Lancashire	Burnley Towneley High School	145	54	0
207	4681	Kensington and Chelsea	Saint Thomas More Language College	121	52	0
316	4016	Newham	Rokeby School	158	50	0
330	4008	Birmingham	Saltley School and Specialist Science College	176	47	0
380	4613	Bradford	Feversham College	89	44	0
306	6900	Croydon	BRIT School for Performing Arts and Technology	124	42	0
830	4200	Derbyshire	Springwell Community School	158	41	0
380	4033	Bradford	Wyke Manor School	169	38	0
836	4104	Poole	Carter Community School	107	38	0
891	4041	Nottinghamshire	Garibaldi College	200	37	0
810	4454	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	Isaac Newton School	105	34	0
330	4332	Birmingham	The Heartlands High School	95	31	0
380	4022	Bradford	Belle Vue Boys' School	81	29	0
359	4800	Wigan	Saint Thomas More Catholic High School	127	28	0
380	4101	Bradford	Grange Technology College	289	27	0
340	4003	Knowsley	Brookfield High School	160	27	0
931	4005	Oxfordshire	Drayton School	94	24	0
380	5404	Bradford	Laisterdyke Business and Enterprise College	174	22	0
333	5400	Sandwell	Manor Foundation Business, Enterprise and Sports College	145	22	0
925	4061	Lincolnshire	Birkbeck School and Community Arts College	72	22	0
866	4087	Swindon	Headlands	158	20	0
876	4218	Halton	Halton High School	111	18	0
888	4005	Lancashire	Skerton Community High School	55	18	0
856	4252	Leicester	Riverside Community College	166	15	0
210	4215	Southwark	Walworth School	256	14	0
891	4008	Nottinghamshire	Kirkby College	144	14	0
352	6905	Manchester	Manchester Academy	136	14	0
831	4177	Derby	Bemrose Community School	132	13	0
925	5414	Lincolnshire	Joseph Ruston Technology College	92	13	0
330	4611	Birmingham	St. Alban's CofE School	72	13	0
355	4018	Salford	Beis Yaakov High School	34	13	0
383	4044	Leeds	Primrose High School	119	8	0
861	4185	Stoke-on-Trent	Mitchell High School	105	7	0
882	5430	Southend-on-Sea	The Thorpe Bay School	114	6	0

LA number	Estab number	LA name	School name	Number of pupils at end of KS4	History entries	Geography entries
813	4075	North Lincolnshire	Brumby Engineering College	148	5	0
826	5453	Kent	Montgomery School	44	5	0
340	4017	Knowsley	Bowring Community Sports College	162	1	0
886	5413	Kent	Oldborough Manor Community School	106	1	0
808	4106	Stockton-on-Tees	Blakeston School - A Community Sports College	169	0	66
882	5434	Southend-on-Sea	Belfairs High School	216	0	50
330	4334	Birmingham	Al-Hijrah Secondary School	48	0	48
357	5401	Tameside	West Hill School	165	0	47
933	5401	Somerset	Brymore School	54	0	47
830	4195	Derbyshire	Parkside Community School	113	0	45
840	4180	Durham	Sunnydale Community College for Maths and Computing	110	0	29
886	4122	Kent	Ellington School for Girls	87	0	28
315	4057	Merton	Tamworth Manor High School	107	0	27
856	4249	Leicester	Hamilton Community College	208	0	22
860	4066	Staffordshire	Norton Canes High School	93	0	20
208	4322	Lambeth	Stockwell Park High School	174	0	16
391	4500	Newcastle upon Tyne	All Saints College	188	0	15
925	5422	Lincolnshire	St. Hugh's CofE Mathematics and Computing College	71	0	14
801	4038	Bristol, City of	Withywood Community School	161	0	13
336	4115	Wolverhampton	Deansfield High School	138	0	13
881	5456	Essex	Barstable School	173	0	12
871	4085	Slough	Beechwood School	88	0	12
358	4015	Trafford	Lostock College	96	0	8
879	4193	Plymouth	Parkside Community College	50	0	5
343	4007	Sefton	Ainsdale High School	2	0	1
889	4409	Blackburn with Darwen	Queen's Park Technology College	2	0	1
801	4046	Bristol, City of	Speedwell Technology College	204	0	0
806	6905	Middlesbrough	Unity City Academy	187	0	0
357	4025	Tameside	Hyde Technology School and Hearing Impaired Resource Base	181	0	0
935	4600	Suffolk	St. Benedict's Catholic School	141	0	0
340	5400	Knowsley	St. Thomas Becket Catholic High School	128	0	0
332	4117	Dudley	The Hillcrest School and Community College	126	0	0
355	6905	Salford	Salford City Academy	101	0	0
370	4019	Barnsley	The Elmhirst School	89	0	0
330	5900	Birmingham	St. Paul's Community Foundation School	11	0	0
881	4002	Essex	Bishops Park College	3	0	0
341	5401	Liverpool	Our Lady's Catholic High School	1	0	0

Data for 2006 are revised.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many maintained schools did not enter any pupils for a GCSE in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* history, *(d)* geography, *(e)* biology, *(f)* chemistry and *(g)* physics in each year between 1997 and 2006. [119021]

Jim Knight: The answer to this request is in the following table.

Number of maintained mainstream schools who did not enter any 15 year old pupils for GCSEs in English, mathematics, history, geography, biology, chemistry and physics by subject and year

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
English[2]	3	1	0	1	1	2	5	0	2	0	1
Maths[2]	3	1	0	1	1	2	5	0	2	0	1
Science[3]	24	30	34	32	30	23	22	22	34	53	73
Physics	2,664	2,629	2,528	2,478	2,452	2,413	2,388	2,278	2,224	2,157	2,033
Biology	2,619	2,589	2,506	2,440	2,414	2,360	2,339	2,170	2,120	2,035	1,909
Chemistry	2,664	2,633	2,526	2,483	2,451	2,419	2,383	2,281	2,233	2,160	2,033

Number of maintained mainstream schools who did not enter any 15 year old[1] pupils for GCSEs in English, mathematics, history, geography, biology, chemistry and physics by subject and year

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
History	103	94	65	73	66	71	79	63	51	55	55
Geography	93	76	52	52	51	63	72	72	58	69	76

[1] Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2] All schools with no entries in English or Maths GCSEs had less than ten 15 year old pupils.
[3] Including Double and Single Award Science.

Headteachers: Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1286W, on head teachers' pay, whether his Department holds information on the salaries of teaching staff and school leaders in academies. [131786]

Jim Knight: The DfES does not hold information on academy teaching staff, school leader or principals' salaries as these are matters for academy governors to resolve as independent schools with their principals. We are aware that head teachers' salaries in academies tend to be higher as they expect to recruit experienced head teachers and the challenges they can face are often immense. Sometimes, academy principal salaries are identified in advertisements and in March 2007 there were two academy principal posts currently advertised with identified salaries. These were in Sheffield, which offered a salary of £80,000 and in Darlington, which offered a salary "circa £85,000".

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what proportion of higher education students was drawn from low participation neighbourhoods in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2005; [131155]

(2) how many students at English Russell Group universities were drawn from state schools in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006. [131156]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information on entrants from low participation neighbourhoods is shown in the following table:

Proportion of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses at higher education institutions in England, who are from low participation neighbourhoods

Academic year	Proportion from low participation neighbourhoods
1997/98	11.4
2001/02	12.4
2004/05	13.1

Source:
'Performance Indicators in Higher Education' published by HESA

The 2005/06 figure will become available by the end of July 2007.

Estimates of the numbers of entrants to English Russell Group institutions from state schools can be derived from the state schools performance indicator in higher education. The latest available information is shown in the following table:

Number of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses at Russell Group Institutions in England, who are from state schools

Academic year	Number from schools
1997/98	27,225
2004/05	35,975

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
'Performance Indicators in Higher Education' published by HESA

2005/06 figures will become available by the end of July 2007, and 2006/07 figures will become available in 2008.

Higher Education: Scholarships

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the expected cost is of fee loans and fee grants for full-time students on undergraduate degrees linked to Higher Education Funding Council for England and Training and Development Agency-funded provision in 2007-08; [131579]

(2) what the planned cash cost is of maintenance income contingent loans for full-time higher education students in England in 2007-08; [131581]

(3) what the planned cash cost is of grants for *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time undergraduate students in England in 2007-08. [131582]

Bill Rammell: Planned expenditure on student support in FY 2007-08 is shown in the following tables. Figures are based on current policies and relate to support provided to English domiciled students studying in UK institutions, and EU students studying in English institutions. Table 1 refers to full-time students: Table 2 refers to part-time students.

Table 1: 2007-08 Full-time support planned expenditure (figures rounded to the nearest £10 million)

Full-time support type[1, 2]	FY 2007-08 (£ million)
1. All grants[3]	860
Of which:	
Tuition fee grant[4]	160
2. Fee loan RAB cost[5]	350
or as cash cost[6]	1,060
3. Maintenance loan RAB cost[5]	580
or as cash cost[6]	2,740

[1] All figures cover full-time undergraduates, but also PGCE students and part-time initial teacher training students.
[2] All figures consistent with those published in the departmental annual report—2006.
[3] Includes maintenance grant, higher education grant, tuition fee grant, special support grant, childcare grant, parents learning allowance and disabled student allowances.
[4] Tuition fee grants are only available to students entering HE prior to 2006/07.
[5] The cost to the public purse represents the resource cost of providing loans. This is based on the RAB charge, which is an estimate of the percentage of the face value of loans (issued in a given year) which reflects the true cost to the government over the expected life of the loan.
[6] Cash outlay figures refer to the total value of funds made available to students through loans.

Table 2: 2007-08 Part-time support costs (figures rounded to the nearest £10 million)

Part-time support	FY 2007-08 (£ million)
4 Part-time grants[1, 2, 3]	60

[1] Includes course grants and fee grants.
[2] Figure covers part time undergraduates (excluding students on part-time ITT courses and PGCE courses).
[3] Figure consistent with those published in the departmental annual report—2006.

Primary Education: Assessments

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many national tests a primary school pupil takes between the ages of five and 11. [131284]

Jim Knight: Primary schools are required to administer national curriculum tests at the end of key stages 1 and 2, which for most pupils is at ages seven and 11.

During the final year in key stage 1, teachers are required to administer at least one task or test in reading, writing and mathematics to pupils who are working at national curriculum level 1 or above. The outcomes of those tasks and tests are used to underpin teacher assessment and feed into a single overarching teacher judgment rather than being reported separately. The arrangements are flexible: teachers must administer sufficient tasks and tests to help them to arrive at a secure judgment, and time limits are not specified for tasks and tests, which can be taken at any time during the school year.

In the final year of key stage 2, schools are required to administer three tests to pupils working at level 3 or above, consisting of the following papers:

English—three test papers: writing (shorter task), and spelling, writing (longer task); and reading;

Mathematics—three test papers, one of which is a mental mathematics test;

Science—two test papers.

The tests in key stage 2 take in total five hours 20 minutes to complete.

School Leaving

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many 16 to 18-year-olds were not in education, employment or training in the 10 per cent. of local education authorities with the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest levels of free school meal entitlement in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. [131289]

Jim Knight: The following table gives the estimated number and percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the 10 per cent. of local authorities with the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest levels of free school meal entitlement between November 2005 and January 2006. Data on NEET to the local authority area are not available for 1997.

Estimated number and percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds in (a) highest and (b) lowest 10 per cent. of local authorities by free school meal entitlement who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), November 2005 to January 2006

	Percentage known to be eligible for free meals[1]	Number NEET	Percentage NEET
(a) Highest proportion with free school meal entitlement			
Hammersmith and Fulham	29.0	430	15.9
Liverpool	29.8	2,080	12.4
Middlesbrough	30.9	880	15.7
Camden	31.5	440	8.9
Birmingham	31.6	4,620	14.3
Westminster	32.7	380	8.2
Knowsley	33.9	700	12.4
Haringey	34.8	730	11.6
Lambeth	37.4	790	15.3
Hackney	38.3	760	16.1
Newham	40.2	880	9.8
Manchester	40.9	1,870	12.0
Southwark	42.9	770	14.5
Islington	43.0	650	10.5
Tower Hamlets	59.5	870	12.6
(b) Lowest proportion with free school meal entitlement			
Rutland	3.8	10	0.9
Wokingham	4.5	230	6.1
Windsor and Maidenhead	4.5	180	5.0
Bracknell Forest	4.7	250	8.6
West Berkshire	5.1	300	6.4
Wiltshire	5.1	650	5.7
Buckinghamshire	5.4	550	3.9
Poole	5.6	300	6.6
Leicestershire	5.6	1,200	6.4
North Yorkshire	5.9	870	4.9
Dorset	5.9	656	6.0
West Sussex	6.0	1,090	4.7
Surrey	6.1	1,040	3.5
Bath and North East Somerset	6.3	310	5.3
Lincolnshire	6.4	1,310	6.0

[1] Secondary Schools, January 2006

These figures are drawn from the operational client management systems maintained by Connexions services. It only includes those people known to the service (about 85 per cent. of the population); some young people who attended independent schools or were at school outside England are excluded. The age relates to those of calendar year age 16-18 on the date of measurement.

This NEET measure is that used for setting and monitoring local authority performance. The definition differs from that used to measure the national departmental PSA NEET target. Along with not covering the entire population, the Connexions NEET measure excludes those on gap years, or in custody. The PSA measure is for academic rather than calendar age 16-18.

Schools: Admissions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support he is providing to local authorities who wish to pilot anonymised admissions procedures. [130742]

Jim Knight: During debate on the Education and Inspections Act, we supported the suggestion that local authorities or other third parties might assess applications for school places on behalf of admission authorities in the area, with their agreement. Officials have now met local authorities who expressed an interest in piloting the 'admissions administration' approach, and two have taken this interest further and are discussing the idea locally. Limited funding may be available to cover implementation costs, and the Department's officials have asked for details of what these might be.

Schools: Intimidation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he has issued guidance to schools on the supervision of changing rooms for the purposes of combating bullying. [131677]

Jim Knight: The Department's current anti-bullying guidance, "Don't Suffer in Silence", advises schools to work with pupils to map the places on the school premises where bullying occurs. This enables schools to improve the school environment and reduce the potential for incidents of bullying to occur. The guidance is currently being revised and, as part of that process, we will look at how we might strengthen its advice.

The Department's forthcoming guidance on cyberbullying will include more specific advice on the supervision of changing rooms, and the use of mobile phones in these settings.

Science: Teachers

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many of the 7,500 new science teachers hired in 2005 referred to in the Prime Minister's speech Our Nation's Future—Science in November 2006 are specialists in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* biology. [130478]

Jim Knight: The 7,500 referred to in the Prime Minister's speech, "Our Nation's Future—Science", is the number of trainees registered to enter mainstream[1] science, technology, engineering and mathematics Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses in the academic year 2005/06. The breakdown of science courses into the individual specialisms was not available prior to 2006/07. Provisional data for recruitment to ITT courses in 2006/07 were published in January 2007 and are available at: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000681/index.shtml

[1] Mainstream ITT providers include Universities and other Higher Education Institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to his answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1406-7W, on secondary education: curriculum, how many parents will be invited to attend the regional events on the secondary curriculum review; [131270]

(2) which local authorities have been asked to host the regional events for parents on the secondary curriculum review. [131271]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, working with St. Martins College, held events for parents in Sandwell on 16 March 2007 and in Bristol on 22 March 2007. The two local authorities asked schools to invite parents to take part in the events.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to his answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1407W, on secondary education: curriculum, whether the Director of Curriculum produced a report on his visit to South Africa. [131277]

Jim Knight: The Director of Curriculum visited South Africa at the request of the Western Cape Education Department. He provided a verbal report to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority Chief Executive and relevant colleagues.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what scientifically based research was *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* produced and (c) consulted by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on the approach to the curriculum adopted in the secondary curriculum review. [131285]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's (QCA) approach to the curriculum adopted in the secondary curriculum review is built on evidence from ongoing work with schools and colleges. The 'futures in action' programme, which has been running since 2005, has continued to demonstrate a high degree of consensus about many of the characteristics of how the curriculum should be shaped. QCA's work is also supported by the results of its annual curriculum monitoring programme which includes interviews and questionnaires with head teachers, deputy heads, teachers and pupils.

Special Educational Needs: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of children in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Ribble Valley (i) had special educational needs and (ii) were educated in special schools in each year since 2000. [130737]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and number of pupils in special schools[1] 2000-06, position in January each year—Lancashire local authority and Ribble Valley parliamentary constituency

Lancashire local authority

	Pupils with SEN				Pupils in special schools			
	With statements		Without statements[2]		Maintained		Non-maintained	
	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]
2000	7,668	4.1	29,706	15.7	2,224	1.2	88	0.05
2001[5]	7,454	3.8	29,469	15.6	2,241	1.2	73	0.04
2002	7,275	3.9	28,497	15.2	2,270	1.2	—	—
2003	7,248	3.9	23,566	12.6	2,253	1.2	—	—
2004	7,323	4.0	23,862	15.0	2,238	1.2	—	—
2005	7,391	4.0	23,089	14.5	2,205	1.2	—	—
2006	7,332	4.1	23,093	14.8	2,186	1.2	—	—

Ribble Valley local authority

	Pupils with SEN				Pupils in special schools			
	With statements		Without statements		Maintained		Non-maintained	
	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[4]	Number	Percentage[4]
2000	473	2.6	2,034	11.2	61	0.3	—	—
2001[5]	462	2.5	2,023	11.0	61	0.3	—	—
2002	428	2.3	2,027	11.0	60	0.3	—	—
2003	430	2.3	1,722	9.2	60	0.3	—	—
2004	431	2.3	1,673	8.9	61	0.3	—	—
2005	439	2.3	1,667	8.8	60	0.3	—	—
2006	436	2.3	1,847	9.8	61	0.3	—	—

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Excludes general hospital schools. This information is not collected from these schools.
[3] There are known quality issues with data on special educational needs collected via the Schools Census in 2001. Figures shown here are as reported by schools.
[4] Number of pupils with or without a statement of SEN expressed as a percentage of the number on roll.
[5] Number of pupils in maintained or non-maintained special schools expressed as a percentage of pupils in all schools. Not applicable, no schools of this type.

Source:
School Census

Special Educational Needs: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children resident in the Peterborough local education authority area with special educational needs were placed in schools outside that area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [121149]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 21 February 2007]:* This information has previously been requested in PQ117437. A table showing the number and percentage of children with statements of special educational need who were educated at a special school outside their local authority area, by each local authority for the years 2002 to 2006 was placed in the House of Commons Library on 30 January 2007.

Students: Loans

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will ensure that the interest rates charged by the Student Loans Company are not raised by any more than the inflation rate for the next five years. [131301]

Bill Rammell: The Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 specifies that the interest rate charged by the Student Loans Company must be no higher than that required to maintain the value of the loan in real terms. Any change to this limit would require the agreement of Parliament.

Teachers: Early Retirement

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of teachers in the leadership group have taken early retirement in each of the past 10 years. [131268]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number and percentage of leadership group teachers retiring from the maintained school sector in each year from 1996-97 to 2005-06, the latest information available.

Head, deputy head and assistant head teacher retirement benefits[1] from the maintained schools sector, 1996-97 to 2005-06

	Retirements			
Financial year (1 April to 31 March)	Premature[2]	Ill health[3]	Total	Percentage[4]
1996-97[5]	2,200	930	3,130	6.6
1997-98[5]	2,380	590	2,970	6.3
1998-99[5]	590	430	1,020	2.2
1999-2000[5]	590	370	970	2.1
2000-01[5]	950	480	1,430	2.8

Head, deputy head and assistant head teacher retirement benefits[1] from the maintained schools sector, 1996-97 to 2005-06

	Retirements			
Financial year (1 April to 31 March)	*Premature[2]*	*Ill health[3]*	*Total*	*Percentage[4]*
2001-02	1,030	460	1,490	2.7
2002-03	1,120	370	1,480	2.7
2003-04	1,290	370	1,660	3.0
2004-05[5]	1,530	270	1,790	3.2
2005-06[6]	1,710	250	1,960	3.4

[1] Teachers awarded benefits from the Teachers Pension scheme.
[2] The effect of the change in the Teachers' Pension scheme as from 31 August 1997 was that many more teachers took early retirement in 1997 than in previous years. Premature includes actuarially reduced benefit retirements from 2000-01.
[3] Changes in the statutory regulations governing ill-health retirement came into force on 1 April 1997. To qualify for ill-health retirement benefits a teacher must now be regarded as permanently unfit to teach.
[4] Total retirements as a percentage of full-time and part-time teachers in service.
[5] For retirement proportions, teacher numbers have been provided from the DfES annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies (618G survey) from 2001-02. Teacher numbers were not available from this, the department's preferred source of teacher numbers, prior to this and therefore have been provided from the Database of Teacher Records.
[6] Provisional.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of their component parts because of rounding.
Sources:
Database Of Teacher Records (DTR) and DfES annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies (618g)

Teenage Pregnancy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students in each local education authority recorded absences from school as a result of teenage pregnancy in each of the last five years, broken down by ethnic group. [127738]

Jim Knight: The information required to answer the question is not available.

Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128762]

Mr. Dhanda: According to our records, during 2006 *(a)* the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, and his predecessor, had 15 meetings with trade union representatives and *(b)* Department for Education and Skills' Ministers had a total of 46 meetings with trade union representatives.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departments: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what strategy he has put in place for *(a)* the use of renewable energy and *(b)* meeting energy targets in his Department's buildings; and if he will make a statement. [125406]

Ian Pearson: The information is as follows:

(a) Strategy for use of renewable energy

Cross-government targets are to source at least 10 per cent. of electricity from renewable sources by 2008. In 2005-06 DEFRA purchased 63 per cent. of its electricity from renewable sources.

All major new build or refurbishment projects are subject to a sustainability review to ensure they fully embrace the Government's sustainability objectives. Renewable energy is a major element of this process.

(b) Strategy for meeting energy targets

Cross-government targets on carbon emissions and energy efficiency mandate DEFRA to:

reduce carbon emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000 levels;

reduce carbon emissions by 30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000 levels;

central Government's office estate to be carbon neutral by 2012;

increase energy efficiency per m^2 by 15 per cent. by 2010, relative to 1999-2000 levels; and

increase energy efficiency per m^2 by 30 per cent. by 2020, relative to 1999-2000 levels.

To achieve these targets, DEFRA has signed up to a Carbon Management Programme (CMP). Working with the Carbon Trust, the programme has enabled the Department to develop a systematic approach to carbon management and take a strategic approach to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions through operational improvements, reduced energy costs, staff awareness and monitoring initiatives.

Utility information systems have enabled the Department to monitor and analyse energy consumption across the estate. This has enabled a focussed approach to identifying significant energy/carbon savings. Pilot projects have recently been implemented with a view to wider rollouts in the near future.

Packaging

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of infringement considered since the introduction of the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003 have not resulted in prosecutions. [131730]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

Trading Standards investigate many cases of infringement on a range of legislation, the majority of which are dealt with through other means (e.g. meetings with the company or correspondence) than prosecution. Data on unsuccessful prosecution cases and infringements dealt with by other means are not centrally collected with regard to the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Frontiers

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions

she has had with her counterpart in Afghanistan on progress in policing that country's borders; how many border guards are in place; and what surveillance is in use at checkpoints. [131276]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular contact with Foreign Minister Spanta and discussed border management with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan during her recent visit to Afghanistan on 28 February to 1 March.

The issue of policing Afghanistan's borders is covered by the International Police Coordination Board, on which our embassy in Kabul is represented by its chief police adviser. Embassy officials also attend monthly International Police Coordinated Action Group meetings chaired by the German Police Project Office (GPPO).

Currently the official establishment of the Afghan Border Police (ABP) is set at 12,000. However, should the overall establishment of the Afghan National Police rise from 62,000 to 82,000, as is currently being considered, then the revised establishment of the ABP will increase to 18,000. Presently, the actual number of ABP is approximately 7,900, deployed at 13 official land border crossing points, four international airports (Kabul, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif), and within a Quick Reaction Force and their HQ at the Ministry of Interior. In addition to static security at these fixed locations, they attempt to police at least another 400 unofficial land border crossing points located around the country. While it would be inappropriate to comment in detail on the precise surveillance techniques used at the border crossing points, we are aware this remains an area where the potential for major development exists.

Developing the ABP remains one of the top priorities for the GPPO and will also be covered by the proposed European Security and Defence Policy mission to Afghanistan. The UK will continue to keep a keen interest in the ABP's development given its significance in helping to stem the flow of insurgents and weapons through the eastern and southern border areas, as well as the fight against the narcotic trade and other illicit smuggling activities. On the northern border, the UK is contributing to a European Commission project to build border infrastructure and capacity for the Afghan border police and customs in Badakhshan province.

Departments: EU Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which projects were funded in the last 12 months for which figures are available by *(a)* the Committee of the Regions and *(b)* the Economic and Social Committee on informing people in the European spirit; and what role her Department has played in the development of such projects in the UK. [130665]

Mr. Hoon: The Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) organise a number of communication projects. These include the CoR OPENDAYS and the EESC's local stakeholder forums. These are funded from an overall communications budget of €2.2 million per year for the CoR and €900,000 per annum for the EESC. The annual communication budget for both committees does not indicate the funding for individual projects. Although the Foreign and Commonwealth Office leads on the selection of members to the UK delegations to both committees, both institutions act independently of member state governments. The Government have not been actively involved in any initiatives by either Committee.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library a list of the attendees, with their affiliations, at each of the last five public events that her Department has hosted on European Community matters. [130633]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has hosted several events relating to EU issues in recent months. On 23 and 24 March, the FCO hosted a conference organised by the University Association for Contemporary European Studies entitled "Reflections on European Integration: 50 years of the Treaty of Rome".

On 22 March, I hosted a reception in Lancaster House to mark the EU's 50th Anniversary and the launch of 'Learning Together'. This initiative aims to encourage more schools in the UK to take part in educational partnerships with schools across Europe. It will provide schools across the UK with information about the exciting opportunities available. Teachers and heads with experience of joint learning projects with other countries will become "Learning Together Ambassadors", and share their experience with other schools interested in joining.

On 9 March, the FCO hosted an event organised by the European Youth Parliament. At this event, pupils from secondary schools across the south-east took part in a debating competition on European issues.

On 16 January, the FCO and Department for Education and Skills hosted a reception to relaunch the Life Long Learning programme. This programme aims to enable learners and trainees to work with their European peers through joint projects, exchanges and work experience.

On 10 January, the FCO hosted a reception to mark the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the EU.

The FCO does not keep records of all event attendees. Guests at the above events were drawn from a range of organisations and included European Ambassadors, representatives from the EU institutions, hon. Members from relevant select committees, teachers, students, representatives from non-governmental organisations and business groups.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by her Department. [132201]

Mr. Hoon: The budget administered by Government Hospitality for official ministerial hospitality is carefully managed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The head of Government Hospitality is

advised on suitable expenditure on stock for the Government cellar, and other hospitality for which the Department is responsible, by the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine (GHACPW). The GHACPW is an advisory non-departmental public body which answers directly to Ministers in the FCO.

EU Action: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Government funding grants are available to *(a)* think tanks, *(b)* youth groups and *(c)* campaigning organisations on EU issues; and what funds were allocated to those groups in each of the last two years. [129259]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Europe Directorate's EU Communications Budget funds activity in the UK to achieve greater domestic awareness of EU issues and a more mature debate about them. The FCO Europe Directorate and other Directorates provide funding to conferences held at Wilton Park, a non-departmental public body of the FCO, think tanks or other events in the UK, including on EU issues. This funding may come from Directorates' Programme Budgets or the FCO Global Opportunities Fund.

In the 2005-06 financial year (FY), the following amounts were allocated to such organisations for activity in the UK on EU issues:

£1,615 to the Foreign Policy Centre for printing the "Europe in a Global Age" publication written by the then Minister for Europe my right hon. Friend, the Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South (Mr. Alexander) (Europe Directorate EU Communications Budget);

£3,598 in support of European Youth Parliament events (Europe Directorate EU Communications Budget);

£270,000 to a range of Wilton Park conferences on European issues (Europe Directorate and Consular Directorate Programme Budgets); and

£10,000 to a Chatham House conference (International Security Directorate European Security and Defence Policy Public Diplomacy Budget).

In the 2006-07 FY, the following amounts were allocated to such organisations for activity in the UK on EU issues:

£5,065 in support of European Youth Parliament events (Europe Directorate EU Communications Budget);

£176 to the Plain English Campaign to audit our website (Europe Directorate EU Communications Budget);

£300,000 to Wilton Park conferences on European issues (Europe Directorate Programme Budget, Global Opportunities Fund and Global and Economic Issues Programme Budget); and

£18,000 to a Chatham House Conference on EU-China interdependencies on climate change and energy (Global and Economic Issues Directorate Programme Budget and Central Unit Programme Budget).

Other FCO-sponsored activity by such organisations may have touched on EU issues. However, this information is not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to confirm.

Separately, think tanks, youth groups or campaigning groups may apply for funding from the FCO Global Opportunities Fund "Reuniting Europe Programme", for projects that support countries in the EU integration process in their efforts to meet the Copenhagen Criteria, particularly in the fields of improved governance and economic growth. Such organisations may also be involved in activity funded by embassies and consulates throughout Europe in line with their post objectives and the FCO's strategic priorities.

EC Institutions: Visits

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* civil servants, *(b)* public officials and *(c)* special advisers have been invited on information and study trips hosted by (i) the European Parliament and (ii) the European Commission since May 1997. [130683]

Mr. Hoon: The figures requested by the hon. Member are not held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

However, both the Commission and the European Parliament organise visits. For example in 2006 the Commission organised 64 visits from the UK with a total of 1,852 participants, this included visits by civil servants, public officials and special advisers. Figures before 2006 are unavailable. The programmes are tailor-made according to the themes requested by the group and last between a half day and full day. The costs are provided for in the Commission budget.

EU Information and Communication Programmes

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the objectives are of the EU Information and Communication programmes for non-member countries (EU budget item 22 04 02); what input her Department has to decisions on the allocation of funding; and if she will make a statement. [130641]

Mr. Hoon: The UK does not have a direct input into this programme. However, we support this work which is underscored by the commitment at the 2006 December European Council to ensure

"broad and sustained public support [for enlargement], which should also be promoted through greater transparency and better communication".

This budget line funds communication activities on enlargement by the Commission regarding candidate and potential candidate countries. The objective is to enhance support for enlargement, the association and stabilisation processes. It aims to strengthen EU visibility in those countries and generate public support for the reform process during the accession and pre-accession periods. Target groups include the general public, youth, media, opinion leaders and rural population. Further information can be found on the Commission's website at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2007/l_077/l_07720070316enl7511753.pdf.

EU: Constitutions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conferences have been held in the UK on the future of the EU

Constitution funded by *(a)* the EU and *(b)* the Government. [130630]

Mr. Hoon: Since the French and Dutch referendums on the Constitutional treaty in May and June 2005, there have been two conferences at Wilton Park funded by the Government with a focus on the future of Europe, including the Constitutional treaty.

"The Enlarged European Union One Year On: Political, Constitutional and Economic Challenges" 4-7 July 2005; and

"Which way Forward for the European Union?: Political and Constitutional Challenges" 6-8 February 2006.

Details can be found on the Wilton Park website at www.wiltonpark.org

The representations of the European Commission and the European Parliament in the UK have organised a range of activities on EU issues. The Government have not worked with the EU institutions to organise any conferences on the future of the Constitutional treaty in this period.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what conferences have been held in Brussels funded by *(a)* the EU and *(b)* the UK Government on the future of the EU Constitution. [130666]

Mr. Hoon: The EU Institutions have organised a range of activities on EU issues in Brussels including an inter-parliamentary conference at the European Parliament on 8 May 2006. The Government have not worked with the EU Institutions to organise any conferences on the future of the EU Constitutional treaty in this period.

Since the French and Dutch referendums on the Constitutional treaty in May and June 2005, there have been no conferences held in Brussels directly funded by the Government on the future of the EU Constitutional treaty.

European Commission: Consultants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultants the European Commission employs to provide advice on *(a)* public relations and *(b)* information campaigns. [130657]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold the information requested.

European Parliament

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding streams are available to the UK Permanent Representation to the European Union for *(a)* hosting and *(b)* sponsoring (i) events and (ii) organisations locally, under the office's own management and authorisation; what monitoring of spending takes place; and if she will make a statement. [129258]

Mr. Hoon: All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) missions, including the UK Permanent Representation to the EU, have funds for hosting events in support of their objectives. Management of those funds is in accordance with FCO regulations and financial procedures, which include audit and monitoring. Funds for sponsoring events or organisations are provided to some missions to support strategic priorities, but such funds are not provided to the UK Permanent Representation to the EU.

Kazakhstan: Human Rights

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent assessment she has made of *(a)* the human rights situation in Khazakhstan and *(b)* the imprisonment of Mahambet Abzhan and Azamat Zheteisbayev; and if she will make a statement; [131355]

(2) if she will instruct the UK's Ambassador to Kazakhstan to visit Mahambet Abzhan and Asamat Zhetpisbayev to assess *(a)* the conditions in which they are being held and *(b)* the manner in which they are being treated. [131369]

Mr. Hoon: We welcome the steps that the Government of Kazakhstan has taken on human rights and democratic reform since independence. These include a moratorium on the death penalty, progress on prison reform including reduction of the number of persons in detention and the introduction of public monitoring of places of detention, and in December 2005 ratification of the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Political pluralism has, however, been affected negatively by recent legislation which restricts freedom of expression, association and assembly. The powers of the Parliament and Government and the independence of the judiciary could be further enhanced to introduce checks and balances into the system of administration. In December 2005, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights International Observation Mission noted that despite some administrative improvements, the presidential election did not meet international standards.

Wherever possible, we look to work with the Kazakh authorities to improve the human rights situation. We have funded projects aimed at improving the conditions in prisons, preventing torture in places of detention and encouraging the abolition of the death penalty. We have continuing dialogue with the Government of Kazakhstan on transparency issues and are working closely with non-governmental organisations on this too. We also stand ready to work with President Nazarbayev on his programme of democratic reforms.

The OSCE has looked into the cases of Makhambet Abzhan and Azamat Zhetpisbayev and attended several of the related court hearings. We, with the OSCE and the EU, will keep a watching brief on both cases in view of the importance of respect for human rights and good governance in Kazakhstan.

Non-Governmental Organisations: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which non-governmental think tanks and organisations working in the domain

of European Communities affairs have received financial support from her Department in the last 12 months. [130676]

Mr. Hoon: In addition to those listed in the reply I gave to the hon. Member today (UIN 129259), the following have received support from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

German British Forum;

UK-German Connection;

Koenigswinter Conferences;

International Journalist Programme;

College of Europe;

Franco-British Council;

British Association for Central and Eastern Europe; and

Birmingham University Contemporary European Studies course.

In addition a number of organisations have received financial support to deliver capacity building activities in countries and regions that are beneficiaries of the FCO's Global Opportunities Fund Re-Uniting Europe Programme. A full list of the organisations and projects funded and financial support provided is available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1070989565087.

Zambia: Politics and Government

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of *(a)* the political situation in *(b)* international relations with and *(c)* human rights in Zambia; and if she will make a statement. [131423]

Mr. McCartney: Zambia held elections at presidential, national assembly and local government level in September 2006. As my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, said on 3 October 2006, we believe that they were conducted in a free and fair manner, and that Zambia had set a strong example to other Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries by conduct of the elections. The political situation in Zambia remains stable.

Zambia is a member of the UN, African Union, SADC and other international organisations. We maintain an excellent relationship and active dialogue with Zambia in all these forums.

Zambia has signed 16 of the International Conventions on human rights. We are encouraging the further enforcement and implementation of these. With our EU partners we continue to press for the abolition of the death penalty. President Mwanawasa has declared that he will not allow executions to take place during his tenure of office. We welcome the positive contributions Zambia has made within the UN Human Rights Council, including on Sudan.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the earliest gestational age at which an unborn child may be capable of being born alive; when her Department last undertook an evidence review on the issue that drew on *(a)* UK and *(b)* international research; and if she will make a statement. [130839]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: While there continue to be medical advances in caring for premature babies, it is very rare for babies born at 22 weeks gestation or under to survive. Data from the 1995 EPICure Study, which followed infants born between 20 and 25 weeks of gestation, found that only 1 per cent. of babies born at 22 weeks of gestation survived to six years of age. A second EPICure study, due to report later this year, will show whether survival rates have changed since 1995.

The Department regularly reviews evidence on this issue, most recently the Nuffield Council of Bioethics report on critical care decisions in foetal and neonatal medicine, published in November 2006.

Abortion: Euthanasia

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's policy is on *(a)* abortion and *(b)* assisted suicide; which organisations and individuals she has consulted about each policy; and if she will make a statement. [130844]

Caroline Flint: Parliament has decided that abortions may lawfully be carried out in the circumstances specified in the Abortion Act 1967, as amended by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990.

The Department most recently set out its policy on sexual health, including abortion, in the "National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV" in 2001, and associated documents. In addition, recommended quality standards for the provision of abortion services are included in "Recommended Standards for Sexual Health Services", published in 2005. The strategy and the standards document were subject to a public consultation exercise.

Assisting a person in committing suicide is unlawful under the Suicide Act 1961 and is subject to a penalty of up to 14 years' imprisonment. The Government have no plans to change this legislation. Any proposals to change the law would be dealt with as a matter of conscience.

Abortions: Disabled

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by her Department on abortions performed on grounds of handicap in *(a)* NHS hospitals and *(b)* non-NHS hospitals where the unborn child was subsequently found to be without disability or handicap; and if she will make a statement. [129524]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated research on abortions

performed on the grounds of foetal abnormality where the unborn child was subsequently found not to have an abnormality.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Maidstone

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the likely savings which would result from the closure of the accident and emergency department in Maidstone Hospital. [130998]

Caroline Flint: There are no plans to close the accident and emergency unit at Maidstone Hospital.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage the £15 million earmarked to improve alcohol interventions in 2007-08 represents of the total uplift in revenue for primary care trusts (PCTs) for that year; and how much of that funding each PCT has received. [131709]

Caroline Flint: The 2006-07 and 2007-08 primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations separately identify £342 million funding in support of public health initiatives, including £15 million for alcohol interventions in 2007-08. £15 million is 0.25 per cent. of the £6 billion uplift in 2007-08 PCT allocations. PCTs have been encouraged to invest additional funding to improve their local arrangements for commissioning and delivering alcohol treatment services based on local need.

PCTs were informed of their shares of the £342 million funding but not their shares of each initiative.

Anabolic Steroids: Misuse

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress her Department is making in tackling the illegal use of anabolic steroids; and what steps she is taking to make young people aware of the dangers of such use. [127275]

Caroline Flint: The Department recognises the harms associated with the misuse of anabolic steroids.

FRANK, the cross-Government campaign which provides advice to young people in relation to substance misuse, includes information on the harms associated with the misuse of anabolic steroids via its website, helpline and literature.

The harmful short and long-term effects of anabolic steroid use are also described in the most recent version of the Department publication —Dangerousness of drugs: A guide to the risks and harms associated with substance misuse (January 2003).

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) is responsible for the funding of education programmes in schools. In 2004, DfES published 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools, guidance for primary and secondary schools on all matters relating to drug education and the management of drugs within the school community. This guidance sets out the issues relating to drug education that schools should cover with children of different ages, and includes drugs available on prescription among the substances that this education should cover.

The table shows prevalence of anabolic steroid use in young people, taken from figures in a school survey of 11 to 16-year-olds, recently published within the headline figures of 'Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2006'.

Percentage

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Anabolic steroids	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5

Figures for the proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds reporting having used anabolic steroids in the last year is shown in the table. The results have been taken from 'Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2005-06 British Crime Survey[1]' (England and Wales).

[1] This statistical bulletin reports on the results of 29,932 respondents who completed the drugs module of the BCS and an additional 2,259 16 to 24-year-olds who were interviewed as part of the 2005-06 BCS youth boost.

Percentage

Year	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Anabolic steroids	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3

Anabolic steroids are only available legally via prescription and are controlled as a class C drug.

Anabolic steroids are included on the world anti-doping agencies (WADA) prohibited list. This list sets out the substances that are prohibited for athletes. Educating athletes of all ages about the consequences of doping comprises part of the anti-doping programme, and is delivered through UK Sport's renowned 100 per cent. ME education programme.

UK Sport, the United Kingdom's national anti-doping organisation runs an anti-doping programme, together with sport's national governing bodies, which is aimed at deterring athletes from using prohibited substances, and to catch those who do. Currently typical sanctions for those caught using prohibited substances range from a two-year ban from sport for a first offence to a lifetime ban for a second.

Audiology Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the extent to which those directly employed by the NHS to provide audiology services are working to the same standards set out in the accreditation process for independent sector providers employed through public-private partnerships. [103717]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is important that common standards should apply to national health service services whichever organisation provides them. The Department is working with NHS providers and the independent and voluntary sectors to ensure harmonisation. This work includes the development of education and training programmes for introduction during 2007-08.

The public private partnership (PPP) was initially set up in October 2003, to enable NHS audiology services to supplement their own capacity as part of the wider modernising hearing aids services programme. The PPP contract stipulated that staff employed to provide services under the PPP must be registered hearing aid dispensers and should be fully trained in the provision of the services detailed within the specification to the same level as audiology staff in the partner NHS trust. In addition, the contractor had to ensure that staff employed to provide services under the PPP complied with the provisions of the Hearing Aid Council's code of practice.

The PPP ended on 31 March 2007. However, the Department will continue to procure audiology capacity through the independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) schemes. When audiology services are being procured through ISTC schemes, providers have to adhere to the same rigid recruitment protocols as the NHS.

Cannabis: Mental Health

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into links between cannabis use and psychosis. [130255]

Caroline Flint: The Department's policy research programme has funded an expert review of the most recent evidence concerning the impact of cannabis use on people with mental health problems, and severe mental illness in particular, and effective interventions aimed at reducing such use. The review has been completed and results will be published shortly.

In addition, the National Institute for Health Research has recently awarded a £2 million programme grant to support research on improving physical health and reducing substance use, particularly cannabis use, in severe mental illness. Research on cannabis use and psychosis will also form part of the work programme of the institute's South London and Maudsley NHS Trust and Institute of Psychiatry Biomedical Research Centre which the Department is funding from April 2007.

Care Homes: Drugs

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the degree of compliance of general practitioners with the National Service Framework for Older People's requirement for regular reviews of medicines prescribed for older people living in care homes; and if she will make a statement. [131330]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally.

However, under the General Medical Services Quality and Outcomes Framework, 8,052 out of 8,409 general practices (95.8 per cent.) achieved an acceptable level in 2005-06 against the indicator:

A medication review is recorded in the notes in the preceding 15 months for all patients being prescribed four or more repeat medicines (excluding over the counter and topical medications).

Care Homes: Human Rights

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to what extent residents of *(a)* state and *(b)* privately-run care homes who are (i) publicly and (ii) privately or self funded are covered by the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. [130846]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A local authority running a care home is under a duty to act in a way which is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights as required by section 6 of the Human Rights Act (HRA), 1998 because a local authority is a public authority for the purposes of that section.

However, under current case law, the interpretation by of the Court of Appeal of section 6 of the HRA has led to the position that private care homes do not exercise public functions as referred to in that section when providing care and accommodation under contract to a local authority. Such a home is not, therefore, directly subject to the Human Rights Act.

On the recommendations of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR), guidance was published in May 2005 on contracting for services. Councils are expected to take account of the relevant aspects of the HRA in their contracting arrangements, including those with care providers. Residents placed in a private care home under a council contract should, therefore, have their human rights protected through the contract.

Residents in private care homes who fund the entire cost of their own care are not covered by the provisions of the HRA.

Care Homes: Standards

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the national service framework standards are for review of medication prescribed for the elderly; and what steps have been taken in each of the last five years to achieve compliance with the standards; [131783]

(2) what steps she has taken *(a)* to monitor and *(b)* to audit the compliance with national service framework standards for review of medication prescribed for the elderly by care homes; [131796]

(3) what instructions she has issued to management and staff of care homes for the elderly on compliance with national service framework standards for review of medication; [131797]

(4) if she will take steps to increase understanding of the national service framework standards for review of medication among residents and their families. [131799]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Use of medicines is a fundamental component of each of the national service framework (NSF) standards and there are common medicines elements for every standard. A document entitled 'Medicines for Older People' on implementing medicines-related aspects of the NSF for older people was included with the NSF documents when they were published. No specific information on compliance with the standards is collected centrally. However, national health service trusts are encouraged to make use of the medicines management framework which is specifically designed for hospitals as a self-assessment tool to

evaluate processes in place to ensure clinical and cost-effective medicines use. Identifying whether medication review has taken place is generally only possible from patients' medical records.

Care homes should meet the performance standards and milestones on medicines management set by the National Care Standards Commission. Care homes should seek advice from pharmacists about medicines in line with national minimum standards (NMS) for care homes for older people, and inspection teams' visits to care homes should focus on medicines systems.

Care homes are governed by the Care Homes Regulations 2001 and associated NMS, which are concerned with ensuring that services are safe and of good quality. The regulator, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, must have regard to the NMS when inspecting care homes to establish compliance with the regulations.

The regulations and NMS, copies of which are available in the Library, include requirements for the recording, handling, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines in care homes. The NMS contain specific requirements for staff to monitor the condition of service users on medication, to call in the service user's GP if they are concerned about any change in condition that may be a result of medication, and prompt the review of medication on a regular basis. The NMS are under review at present.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much programme expenditure sponsored by her Department was spent via each of the Government Offices for the Regions in the most recent year for which figures are available. [116760]

Caroline Flint: The expenditure for regional public health groups' programme expenditure (direct spend and budget transfers) for the financial year ending 31 March 2006 is in the following table.

Regional director for public health	*£000*
North East	2,113
West Midlands	3,296
North West	3,523
East Midlands	2,513
East of England	2,727
South West	3,400
South East (including South Central)	3,111
London	3,635
Yorkshire and Humberside	2,939
Total	27,257

Departmental Staff

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were employed on a consultancy basis in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies in each of the last five years for which information is available; and what the (i) average and (ii) longest period was for which a consultant was employed in each year. [102969]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect information that would identify the numbers of consultants engaged for the years requested. Contracts do not usually specify the precise numbers of consultants and the numbers can vary during a contract.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency does not collate this information and is therefore unable to supply it.

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency employs businesses to provide a variety of consultancy services with specific outcomes. It does not monitor consistently which individuals provide the service or how long they spend on the work.

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128090]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* The following table outlines cost of departmental campaign advertising in each year since 1997.

£ million

Campaign	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Antibiotics	—	—	0.91	—	0.44	0.44	0.42	—	0.39
Blood Donation	0.60	1.70	0.22	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drugs (joint campaign with Home Office)[1]	—	—	0.53	0.50	—	1.52	1.50	1.99	1.26
Flu	—	—	—	2.02	1.45	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.85
Hepatitis C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Immunisation	—	—	—	—	0.67	1.0	2.0	2.00	0.35
Mind Out	—	—	—	—	0.13	0.16	0.95	—	—
National Health Service including nurse recruitment	1.30	4.90	4.21	4.90	5.0	4.23	4.9	5.84	.024
NHS Direct	0.12	0.78	1.24	0.21	1.08	0.58	0.75	—	—

£ million

Campaign	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Organ donation	0.02	0.77	0.47	0.43	0.18	0.22	—	—	—
Prescription fraud	—	0.38	—	1.35	—	0.30	—	—	—
Sexwise/teenage pregnancy	—	—	0.39	—	2.00	1.60	2.00	—	—
Sexual Health	—	—	—	—	0.30	1.50	1.50	1.26	—
Social Care/Worker Recruitment	—	—	—	—	0.83	1.24	4.62	2.14	2.44
Smoking	—	—	6.18	8.97	7.79	7.87	17.34	24.00	22.70
TB Awareness	—	—	—	—	0.30	0.09	—	—	—
Walk-in centres	—	—	—	0.37	0.02	—	—	0.20	—
Winter(Get the Right Treatment, Ask about Medicines Day)	—	—	1.02	2.03	0.16	0.25	1.75	0.59	0.59
Promoting New NHS Services (formerly Caring in Many Ways)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.85	—
E111	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.320	1.365

[1] Departmental contribution to Frank substance misuse campaign jointly funded by the Department, Home Office and Department for Education and Skills.

The following table outlines the specific costs relating to television, radio and print media for 2004-06 as these are the only two years where we have figures broken down as requested. To provide a breakdown from 2001 would incur disproportionate cost.

Breakdown of campaign expenditure

£ million

	TV	Radio	Print media
2004-05			
NHS Careers Recruitment Campaign	2.03	0.13	3.46
DOH (International) Classified Advertising	—	—	0.05
DOH Directories Advertising	—	—	0.18
Adult Sexual Health	—	0.41	0.36
Teenage Pregnancy	—	0.25	0.03
Tobacco Information Campaign	13.34	2.56	2.90
Wider Access Campaign	—	—	0.36
Drugs Advertising	0.52	0.33	—
Social Work Recruitment Campaign	—	—	0.46
Flu Campaign	0.78	0.06	0.54
Social Care Recruitment	1.10	—	0.18
E111 Awareness	—	—	0.24
Health and Social Care Awards Trade Campaign	—	—	0.03
2005-06			
DoH Directories Advertising	—	—	0.07
DoH Classified Advertising	—	—	0.05
Tobacco Education—Second Hand Smoke	5.29	1.65	0.67
Tobacco Education—Cessation	6.11	0.97	0.74
Tobacco Education—Support	0.55	—	0.85
E111 Awareness	—	—	0.91
Flu Immunisation	0.78	0.24	0.60
NHS Classified/Recruitment Advertising	—	—	0.13
NHS Careers recruitment	—	—	0.22
Get the Right Treatment	—	0.24	0.24

Breakdown of campaign expenditure

£ million

	TV	Radio	Print media
Social Work	—	0.39	0.20
Social Care	1.09	0.37	0.36
Antibiotics Campaign	—	—	0.37
Drugs—Frank Campaign (combined total—funded by Home Office and Health)	1.04	0.40	—

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department has spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper and publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers and publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic of each was. [129962]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Departmental campaign expenditure for funding advertorials in newspapers or publications in 2005-06: Tobacco Control £46,181; Flu Immunisation £103,665.

We have not incurred departmental campaign expenditure on sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements.

Departments: Focus Groups

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department spent on focus groups in each of the last five years. [131401]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A list of expenditure by the Department on focus groups in each of the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as the Department does not hold this information centrally.

However, information on focus groups commissioned by the Department's Communications Directorate is available from April 2004. Since April

2004, the Communications Directorate has spent £314,800 on focus groups with the public and national health service staff.

We are committed to consulting and involving the public and NHS staff to help inform both policy formulation and the delivery of better quality public service. Responsive public services are an important part of the Modernising Government initiative.

Departments: Office Expenditure

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many litres of bottled water her Department purchased, and at what cost, in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement on her Department's provision of water for staff and visitors. [129376]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 23 March 2007]*: No detailed records of all bottled water purchases are maintained by the Department.

Bottled water for the London Administrative estate for hospitality purposes is provided by the Departments catering contractor. There is no record of purchase made for 2004.

In 2005, 45,738 litres were purchased at a cost of £89,189.10

In 2006, 52,861 litres were purchased at a cost of £103,078.95

The Department jointly occupies a building in Leeds for which the Department of Work and Pensions provides the hospitality service. Their contractor is unable to provide the information required.

Within this building the Department does provide water coolers in their appointed tea points. The only record of costs is for 2006 where the purchase was for; 1,240 x 11 litre bottles at a cost of £6,997.62 (including servicing), 34 x 18 litre bottles at a cost of £303.43 (including servicing).

Departments: Opinion Polls

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department spent on opinion polling in each of the last five calendar years; which polls were conducted; and how much was paid to companies conducting polling. [131400]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A list of expenditure on opinion polling in each of the last five years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department does not hold this information centrally.

However, information on opinion polling commissioned by the Department's Communications Directorate since April 2004 is available in the following table:

Year	Poll	Company	Amount (£)	Total(£)
2007	Public Perceptions of the National Health Service Tracker Survey—March 2007	Ipsos MORI	32,900	32,900
2006	Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker Survey—summer 2006	Ipsos MORI	40,500	
	Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker Survey—winter 2006	Ipsos MORI	40,000	
	Public Monthly Omnibus 2006	Ipsos MORI	13,200	
	Public Perceptions Baseline	Ipsos MORI	5,500	
	NHS Staff Survey—January 2006	NOP	12,100	
	NHS Staff Survey—July 2006	NOP	38,990	
	NHS Staff Survey—December 2006	GFK NOP	59,150	
	Departmental Stakeholder Survey—July 2006	TNS Social Research	20,000	229,440
2005	Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker Survey—summer 2005	MORI	32,500	
	Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker—winter 2005	MORI	32,500	
	Public Monthly Omnibus 2005	MORI	18,480	
	NHS Staff Survey—July 2005	NOP	22,725	106,205
2004	Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker Survey—summer 2004	MORI	32,500	
	Public Perceptions of the NHS Tracker—winter 2004	MORI	32,500	
	Public Monthly Omnibus 2004	MORI	13,090	78,000

We are committed to consulting and involving the public, NHS staff and our stakeholders to help inform both policy formulation and the delivery of better quality public service. Responsive public services are an important part of the Modernising Government initiative.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which postal companies handle mail dispatched by her Department and its agencies. [128241]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Royal Mail is the sole contracted mail supplier that handles mail dispatched by the Department and its agencies.

Departments: Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the expenditure of her Department on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [128045]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's library service is responsible for central purchasing of newspapers, magazines and periodicals for library use and for retention by individual units. Suppliers who have been chosen by competitive tendering every three to five years are used.

Expenditure details are kept on a central system but it does not differentiate between expenditure on newspapers, magazines and periodicals.

Total expenditure for the financial years 1997-98 onwards

	£000
1997-98	415,890
1998-99	423,560

Total expenditure for the financial years 1997-98 onwards

	£000
1999-2000	419,490
2000-01	423,160
2001-02	469,880
2002-03	356,510
2003-04	350,036
2004-05	380,025
2005-06	395,148
2006-07	[1]343,525

[1] Estimate of final out-turn

Departments: Surveys

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure was incurred by her *(a)* Department, *(b)* agencies and *(c)* non-departmental bodies in each year since 1997 on (i) opinion polling, (ii) focus groups and (iii) other forms of market research; and if she will list the surveys commissioned and the purpose of each. [128037]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not hold this information centrally and to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128757]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ministers and civil servants meet many people, including union representatives, as part of the process of policy development and advice. A Minister chairs a monthly meeting with NHS employers and union representatives, the social partnership forum, to promote effective partnership working on the workforce implications of policy.

Drugs: Pilot Schemes

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made with the pilots on injectable diamorphine prescribing in England; and what data on *(a)* outcomes relating to the health of the individuals participating in the pilots and *(b)* their offending rates have emerged from the pilots. [131569]

Caroline Flint: The Randomised Injectable Opiate Treatment Trial (RIOTT) is currently under way. The National Addiction Centre, supported by Government, is examining injectable diamorphine, injectable methadone and oral methadone treatments in a randomised controlled trial. The trial is due to be completed in 2008. The results on outcomes will only be published after completion of the trial and following peer review.

Eyesight: Testing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what age her Department recommends that children should receive eye check-ups. [131385]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All children should have their eyes examined at birth and again at six to eight weeks by a health visitor or nurse. The national service framework for children, young people and maternity services recommends an optometrist-led screening programme for children aged four and five.

Female Genital Mutilation

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for the effects of recent female genital mutilation in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [130519]

Caroline Flint: This information is not collected centrally.

Health Services: Disabled

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what national minimum standards the Government set for the provision of care to disabled people by local authorities; and what mechanisms the Department uses to ensure that there are no regional variations in the provision of such services. [131777]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All of the national minimum standards that the Government set apply to providers of services to disabled people.

The regulations and the national minimum standards ensure that providers across the country are inspected and regulated according to consistent, nationally applied standards. The Commission for Social Care Inspection, which regulates social care, has strong enforcement powers and will take action if necessary to protect the welfare of all service users.

Health Services: Publications

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the Audit Commission to publish the result of its investigation into the Fair Access to Care Services guidance. [131778]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are not aware of any plans by the Audit Commission to conduct a national investigation of Fair Access to Care Services guidance.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was of publicising and marketing the End Waiting, Change Lives initiative. [127973]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The total cost of publicising and marketing the End Waiting, Change lives initiative during the financial year ending 2006-07 was £164,100.

Hearing Aids: Greater London

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for the waiting time for digital hearing aid assessments in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* Bromley; and if she will make a statement. [129093]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This is a local matter but we are aware that both Bexley and Bromley are experiencing long waiting times for digital hearing aid assessments.

To address this, the Lewisham hospital national health service trust and Queen Mary' Sidcup NHS trust, which treat Bexley patients, are replacing a vacant post by that of a locum audiologist, two audiologists are being trained to fit digital hearing aids and the systems are being restructured to be more efficient. These measures are expected to substantially reduce the backlog by summer.

Bromley Hospital NHS trust, which treats Bromley patients, has taken action by arranging for private sector treatment, by increasing staff numbers and improving clinical and administrative processes.

Home Helps

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007 to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire, *Official Report*, column 129W, on home helps, how many people received home help in the sample week in each year from 1997 to 2006; and how many hours were delivered in the sample week in 2006. [131791]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are only able to provide information relating to the publicly funded home care. This information is included in the following table. This information was first collected in 2000. Data for 2006 are not yet available.

Estimated number[1] of clients receiving home help during a sample week in September, 2000 to 2005, England

	Number of clients
2000	414,700
2001	395,500
2002	382,000
2003	373,700
2004	368,600
2005	367,700

[1] Rounded numbers

Notes:
1. The table contains estimates for missing data.
2. Clients receiving home care purchased with a direct payment are excluded.

Source:
HH1 return, table 3A

Hospital Beds

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on progress in the provision of community and domiciliary support to facilitate reductions in average hospital lengths of stay. [130079]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 29 March 2007]*: The Government are committed to reducing the number of patients who are delayed in hospital, when they could be better cared for elsewhere. Councils and their national health service partners have already made significant progress in reducing delays in hospital. Between September 2001 and December 2006, the number of people over the age of 75 delayed in hospital reduced from 5,673 to 1,651—a reduction of 71 per cent. Total delays for the same period were reduced from 7,065 to 2,190—a reduction of 69 per cent.

Intermediate care can be used to facilitate discharge from hospital, reducing the period of time the individual has to stay there. This aims to help speed recovery, re-establish the individual's independence and maintain social and community links. It can be used to respond to, or avert, a health crisis and thereby act as an alternative to hospital admission. This policy also has the effect of reducing demand on secondary care resources, making beds available and reducing the likelihood of readmission. As at 31 March 2006, there were 29,644 intermediate care places, benefiting over 393,000 people.

A key goal of the White Paper, "Our health, our care, our say", is to provide better prevention and early intervention for improved health, independence and well-being. Support for implementation is being provided by various pilot sites. These include 30 care closer to home demonstrations that are working across six specialties to offer more care in community settings, including step-down facilities allowing people to be discharged from hospital to facilities near their home.

Hospitals: Voluntary Organisations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to encourage the formation of not-for-profit organisations to run non-medical services for patients; and if she will make a statement. [120024]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government's vision of a modern health and social care system is to develop a cost-effective, fair and transparent commissioning-led environment in which commissioners ensure the provision of flexible and responsive services through an increasingly diverse range of providers, including the third sector (voluntary and community sector, social enterprise and other not-for-profit organisations).

The Commissioning Framework for health and well-being, published for consultation on 6 March 2007, sets out the proposed model for health and social care commissioning from April 2008 and how commissioners should procure effectively and fairly from a wide range of providers and actively shape the provider market. We are supporting the development of third sector and social enterprise approaches to service delivery though Section 64 General Scheme of Grants and the Social Enterprise Fund.

Hyperactivity: Drugs

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her policy is on the use of methylphenidate drugs in the treatment of children over the age of six and adolescents who suffer from attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder; and if she will make a statement; [130759]

(2) how many people in England were diagnosed as suffering from attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder in each year between 1997 and 2006. [130760]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In March 2006, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidance on the use of drugs to treat attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). NICE has estimated that around 5 per cent. of school-aged children meet the diagnostic criteria for ADHD, equivalent to 366,000 children and adolescents in England and Wales, but not all these children will require medication.

NICE has recommended that drug treatment for ADHD should only be initiated by an appropriately qualified healthcare professional with expertise in ADHD and should be based on a comprehensive assessment and diagnosis. Continued prescribing and monitoring of drug treatment may be performed by general practitioners, under shared care arrangements. Drug therapy should only be part of a comprehensive treatment programme that includes advice and support to parents and teachers.

Information is not collected on the number of people diagnosed with ADHD.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the possible effects of administering Tamiflu to *(a)* 25 per cent., *(b)* 50 per cent. and *(c)* 75 per cent. of the population in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak with an attack rate of (i) 25 per cent., (ii) 30 per cent., (iii) 40 per cent., (iv) 50 per cent. and (v) 75 per cent. [126545]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Predicting the effect of the administration of Tamiflu is dependent on whether or not the unknown virus will be sensitive to Tamiflu, the clinical attack rate, the characteristic complications profile of the as-yet unknown virus, the antiviral policy (such as targeted treatment or treating everyone), other interventions, and the effect of antivirals and other interventions on reducing spread. It is not a fixed figure. We use 25 per cent., 35 per cent. and 50 per cent. as our standard raw clinical attack rates for planning purposes because the pandemics of the 20th century had attack rates between 25 per cent. and 35 per cent. in the UK whereas 50 per cent. is the reasonable worst case.

Overall, on prescribed medical and scientific advice, the administration of antivirals is expected to reduce the proportion of clinical cases who require hospitalisation and the case fatality rate—possibly by up to 50 per cent. In such calculations many assumptions need to be made, of which only two are that Tamiflu will be as effective against a pandemic strain as against seasonal influenza, and that antiviral treatment will reach the patient within 24 hours of the onset of symptoms.

Insulin

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions her Department has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence regarding a future work programme on insulin treatments; [131406]

(2) what discussions her Department has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on its future work programme on insulin treatments; [131324]

(3) what discussions her Department has had with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence regarding its future work programme on insulin treatments. [131792]

Caroline Flint: Departmental officials routinely discuss with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence a wide range of potential topics for inclusion in the Institute's work programme.

Legal Advice

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by the Department on external legal advice in each of the past five years. [109109]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, Department figures for the cost of external legal services procured by the Department's own lawyers is set out in the table.

£

	Net	VAT	Total
2002-03	1,407,890.39	163,040.69	1,570,958.01
2003-04	1,540,718.46	244,872.77	1,785,590.23
2004-05	1,145,224.50	133,346.73	1,278,162.10
2005-06	1,631,254.29	165,638.80	1,816,955.84

Source:
Department of Health Solicitors Unit

Medicine

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much it costs to provide all medical students with copies of each edition of the British National Formulary in each of the past three years; and what the forecast cost is for 2007-08. [130349]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The following table shows the amount allocated to fund the provision of a copy of the British National Formulary in each of the years from 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Funding for the provision of the British National Formulary to medical students

	Allocation (£000)
2004-05	100
2005-06	110
2006-07	125

There is no allocation to fund the provision of the British National Formulary in 2007-08.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to the letter of 29 January 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regards to Ms. E. Waite. [128681]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend replied on 30 March 2007.

MRSA

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has (a) commissioned and (b) evaluated on the potential incidence of MRSA and like infections in GPs' surgeries. [129575]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department is not at present funding studies that relate specifically to methicillin resistant *staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and general practitioners' premises. Much of the current research aimed at improving our understanding of environmental influences on infection spread, and on cleaning and decontamination methods, will however be relevant to that setting. Additionally, the increasing recognition of the need to improve our understanding of spread of MRSA within the community will influence future research priorities.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) projects were successfully completed in each year since the scheme was introduced; what the *(a)* shortest and *(b)* longest period of time has been for completion of a LIFT project from commissioning phase to operational opening; what lessons her Department has learned to achieve better value for money and effectiveness for future LIFT schemes; and how best practice is disseminated to partners within LIFT schemes. [131396]

Andy Burnham: The first National Health Service Local Improvement Finance Trusts (LIFT) schemes became operational in 2004. The following table provides information on schemes successfully completed from 2004, broken down by year.

	Number of new LIFT facilities open to patients
2004	4
2005	46
2006	56
2007[1]	57

[1] This is total number of buildings that are expected to open in 2007. This includes those opened by 31 March and those expected to open in the remainder of the year.

Information is not collected centrally on the time scale from the commissioning phase of construction to the building opening to patients.

Individual LIFT schemes currently demonstrate that they are value for money through two routes: the LIFT company being established as a result of a competitive procurement, as a result of which an initial tranche of schemes are priced; and on an on-going basis, through the annual lease plus payment for each scheme being signed off by the district valuer as value for money in comparison with other similar facilities in the locality.

The Committee of Public Accounts report of 2006 made the point that value for money of both the LIFT programme and its schemes needed to be measured more effectively. The Department is currently addressing this by developing a database to benchmark the constituent costs of LIFT schemes and also by introducing the use of a public sector comparator in the business case for any single LIFT facility with a capital value in excess of £20 million.

Partnerships for Health, working with the Department, has developed a network for the public sector procurement teams to share learning, best practice and drive continuous improvement.

NHS: ICT

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the lifetime contract value is of the National Programme for Information Technology, broken down by major cost area; and how much has been spent in each cost area. [123183]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the table

Programme area	*Lifetime contract value*	*£ million Expenditure to 31 December 2006*
Spine	620	310.7
N3 broadband network	530	228.2
Choose and Book core contract	64.5	33.2
London local service provider (LSP)	996	39.1
North East LSP	1,099	82.8
North-west/West Midlands LSP	973	184.8
Eastern LSP	934	94.8
Southern LSP	986	27.9
Total	6,202.5	1001.5

Nutrition: EC Law

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department holds a definitive list of when each EU member state intends to close its list for receiving health claims made under article 13 of regulation (EC) No. 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods. [131775]

Caroline Flint: The regulation allows member states until 31 January 2008 to submit their lists of health claims under article 13. The Food Standards Agency opened the United Kingdom list in October, prior to the publication of the regulation, and intends to close the UK list in September in order to allow time for claims to be assessed for eligibility and put into a format that can be submitted to the Commission. The agency does not hold a definitive list of when each European Union member state will close its list.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures her Department is considering to support small and medium-sized enterprises to comply with the requirements of regulation (EC) No. 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods; and if she will make a statement. [131776]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency has worked closely with the Small Business Service and in consultation with small businesses to find ways to help them comply with the regulation. The Agency is currently out to consultation on detailed guidance on compliance, which it has sought to tailor to the needs of small businesses. In addition, the Agency has decided to make public the developing list of United

Kingdom health claims on its website, which should help small businesses monitor what claims are available for general use and help them co-ordinate efforts to register missing claims.

The regulation refers to the importance of small businesses in the European food industry, and makes it a requirement for the Commission, in close co-operation with the European Food Safety Authority, to make available technical guidance and tools to assist them in the preparation and presentation of an application for authorisation of a claim. The UK is pressing for early publication of this guidance.

Ophthalmic Services: Children

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to improve ophthalmic services for children; and if she will make a statement. [130845]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Free sight tests are available under the national health service for children under 16 and those aged 16-18 in full time education. Sight tests allow the opportunity to review all aspects of eye health, including investigations for signs of disease.

The National Service Framework (NSF) for Children, Young People and Maternity Services set out a 10-year programme to improve children's services. The NSF highlighted a need for an orthoptist-led programme for pre-school vision screening. Local agencies have the flexibility to plan and prioritise how the NSF standards should be met.

Radiography: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many radiographers there were in the NHS in January *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2007 in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) England. [131121]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of radiographers in the specified areas are shown in the table for 1997, 2001 and 2005 as these are the latest data available.

National health service hospital and community health services: qualified radiography staff in England and each specified strategic health authority (SHA) area by area of work as at 30 September each specified year

	1997	2001	Headcount 2005
England	11,771	12,706	14,539
Diagnostic radiography staff	10,364	11,163	12,700
Therapeutic radiography staff	1,407	1,543	1,839
Of which:			
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority area	1,278	1,396	1,610
Diagnostic radiography staff	1,154	1,246	1,444
Therapeutic radiography staff	124	150	166
Of which:			
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	309	313	425

National health service hospital and community health services: qualified radiography staff in England and each specified strategic health authority (SHA) area by area of work as at 30 September each specified year

	1997	2001	Headcount 2005
Diagnostic radiography staff	287	289	399
Therapeutic radiography staff	22	24	26

Note:
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire figures are for the old SHA area.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical work force census.

Royal Surrey County Hospital

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations her Department has received about possible closure of the Royal Surrey County hospital. [116254]

Caroline Flint: The Department is aware of approximately 2,017 letters about the future of the Royal Surrey County hospital.

Smoking

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* acute hospital trusts, *(c)* strategic health authorities, *(d)* mental health trusts, *(e)* ambulance trusts and *(f)* local authorities to implement the smoking ban provisions of the Health Act 2006; and how spending of this funding is being monitored. [131671]

Caroline Flint: The national health service has been smokefree since 1 January 2007, in line with commitments set out in the "Choosing Health" White Paper published in 2004. The Department has, therefore, not identified any specific funding for NHS bodies to implement the smokefree requirements set out in the Health Act 2006. NHS bodies will receive materials from the Department to support them in preparing for the introduction of smokefree legislation.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1698W for information on funding for local authorities.

Social Marketing

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much money the NHS spent on social marketing in England in each of the last five years. [103746]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally.

Social Services: Cornwall

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust's, or its predecessors', budget was for each year from 2001; and what departmental funding was

provided each year over the same period for adult social care in Cornwall. [130510]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 29 March 2007]*: The total resource limit, which is made up of revenue and capital for each of the financial years from 2001-02 to 2005-06 for the predecessors of the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust (PCT) is shown in table one. The most recent period for which figures are available is 2005-06. The figures have been extracted from the audited final accounts of the relevant PCTs. Central Cornwall PCT and North and East Cornwall PCT were established in 2001-02 but did not become operational until 1 April 2002. Therefore, no final accounts were submitted for 2001-02. Central Cornwall PCT was the successor to Carrick PCT therefore figures for Carrick PCT for 2001-02 have been included.

The majority of Cornwall's social care spending is funded from the formula grant which contributes to all local government services. Specific grant funding from the Department for social care from 2001-02 to 2005-06 is shown in table two.

Table one: Primary care trust (pct) total (revenue and capital) resource limits 2001 to 2006

£000

	Total resource limit				
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
West of Cornwall	99,590	135,504	151,104	171,687	195,782
Central Cornwall	0	181,767	184,983	217,851	245,817
North and East Cornwall	0	142,349	138,676	137,136	196,248
Carrick	61,488	0	0	0	0
Total	161,078	459,620	474,763	556,674	637,847

Source:
Audited PCT Summarisation Schedules (ASFs)

Table two: Revenue grants to Cornwall from the Department

	Total (£ million)
2001-02	5.28
2002-03	14.58
2003-04	15.65
2004-05	21.64
2005-06	20.34

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many overseas establishments in the *(a)* EU and *(b)* USA are approved by his Department as sources of primates imported for research; and how many of these establishments comply fully with International Primatological Society guidelines for the acquisition, care and breeding of non-human primates; [127598]

(2) which overseas establishments outside the EU and USA are approved by his Department as sources of primates imported for research; and how many of these establishments comply fully with International Primatological Society guidelines for the acquisition, care and breeding of non-human primates. [127599]

Joan Ryan: There are two breeding and supply centres within the European Union that are accepted as suitable sources of non-human primates intended for use in scientific procedures in the United Kingdom, none in the USA, and five outside the European Union. It is not Home Office policy to name overseas supply centres.

The guiding principle applied in appraising overseas breeding and supply centres is that they should meet the relevant standards set out in the Home Office code of practice for the housing and care of animals in designated breeding and supplying establishments at least in respect of animals destined for the United Kingdom. Minor deviations from those standards, such as minor variations in cage heights, may be acceptable provided that they do not have adverse consequences for the welfare of the animals at the centre.

The International Primatological Society (IPS) guidelines for the acquisition, care and breeding of non-human primates are not a set of minimum compliance criteria for supplying animals for use in the United Kingdom. Rather, they are considered to provide guidance on good practice to which all breeders of non-human primates should aspire. Except where they differ from the requirements of the United Kingdom code of practice, Home Office policy is that compliance by overseas centres with the IPS guidelines is generally expected and overseas centres are required to identify any areas in which they do not meet the standards of the IPS guidelines when seeking acceptance as suppliers to the United Kingdom. However, not all of the IPS guidelines are appropriate in all circumstances. For example, providing a fixed light-dark cycle cannot apply where, as is the case in many source countries, animals experience natural daylight/day length throughout the year.

Providing that any deviation from the UK code of practice provisions does not have a material adverse effect on animal welfare, centres may be deemed acceptable as overseas sources. On this basis, all of the overseas supply centres currently accepted by the Home Office as suitable sources of non-human primates are judged to have appropriate animal welfare standards, even though they do not comply with every provision of the code of practice and IPS guidelines.

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases have been resolved from the backlog of asylum seekers whose cases have failed since July 2006; and what his most recent estimate is of the backlog of such cases. [130708]

Mr. Byrne: Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals by nationality are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

The Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February with an update on the Legacy Programme

announced by the Home Secretary in his statement to Parliament on 19 July 2006. A copy of the letter is in the Library.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what package of assistance has been provided by the Government for failed Iraqi asylum applicants under the UK enforced returns programme in each year since 2004. [131592]

Mr. Byrne: Enforced returns to Iraq commenced in accordance with the memorandum of understanding in 2005. The package of support provided includes a small cash sum in pocket money, onward ground transportation to people's home towns or villages, and the opportunity to participate in a re-skilling programme designed to fit them for employment in Iraq.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has had from *(a)* the United Nations, *(b)* other international organisations and *(c)* the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government on the consequences of returning Iraqi asylum seekers in the UK to Iraq; what responses he has made; and if he will make a statement. [131663]

Mr. Byrne: UNHCR in their December 2006 position paper advised that no Iraqi from southern or central Iraq should be forcibly returned to Iraq until such time as there is substantial improvement in the security and human rights situation in the country. When considering the return of Iraqis from the three northern governorates of Iraq, UNHCR advise that returns should be conducted in a phased and orderly manner, closely co-ordinated with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) authorities. At present we are enforcing the removal of only those individuals who are from the KRG area of Iraq, which is in line with the UNHCR position.

Ministers and officials from the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have discussed the issue of returning Iraqi failed asylum seekers to Iraq with the Kurdish Regional Government on a number of occasions.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what monitoring mechanism has been put in place of failed Iraqi asylum applicants returned to Iraq under the UK voluntary returns programme since 2004. [131668]

Mr. Byrne: For those Iraqis returning under the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) and availing themselves of reintegration assistance, there is a monitoring exercise that takes place three months, six months and 12 months into the implementation of their reintegration activity.

Therefore an individual who chooses to set up a business would be contacted/visited within three, six and 12 months of the establishment of the activity. After one year, the monitoring ceases.

Asylum: Travel

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to process travel documents for asylum seekers with exceptional leave to remain in the UK when applying for permission to leave and return to the United Kingdom was in the last period for which figures are available. [131086]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available and could be obtained only by interrogating individual records to establish a breakdown of decisions by document type, which would incur disproportionate cost. The performance targets for processing all types of travel document applications are:

70 per cent. dispatched in 20 working days; and

90 per cent. dispatched in 70 working days.

The latest performance data available for February 2007 are:

91 per cent. dispatched in 20 working days; and

95 per cent. dispatched in 70 working days.

British Nationality

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on which occasions the Chancellor of the Exchequer consulted him before making his speech on requiring immigrants to complete community service before becoming British citizens. [130765]

Mr. Byrne: Ministers routinely discuss matters that may be of interest across their respective Departments.

Departments: St George's Day

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans his Department has to celebrate St. George's day. [125780]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office flies the Union flag on St. Georges day.

Driving Offences: Courts

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many driving offences were tried in *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* Crown courts in each of the last five years; and what average penalty was handed down in each case. [130044]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* Information on proceedings, convictions and sentences imposed at criminal courts for motoring offences can be found in the annual Home Office publication 'Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary tables' (latest available covers 2004). Copies are available in the Library. The publication is available on the Research Development and Statistics (RDS) website.

The main website addresses are:

2000:http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/motosupps00.pdf

2001:http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosbsuptab303.pdf

2002:http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hosb0504supps.pdf

2003 http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb0605supp.pdf
2004 http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb0506supp.pdf
2005 data will be available later this year.

Drugs: Rehabilitation Centres

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of his Department's overall drugs treatment budget is spent on residential rehabilitation beds. [130347]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The commissioning for residential rehabilitation is carried out at local level and the funding for it comes via a number of streams. It is therefore not possible to identify how much of the pooled treatment budget is spent on residential rehabilitation beds.

Foreign Prisoners

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners being held in HM prisons are *(a)* non-British EU nationals and *(b)* non-EU foreign nationals. [129995]

Mr. Byrne: Figures showing the numbers of *(a)* non-British European Union nationals and *(b)* non-European Union foreign national prisoners held in all prisons in England and Wales on 31 January 2007 can be found in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Non-British European Union nationals and non-European foreign national prisoners held in prison establishments in England and Wales as at 31 January 2007

	Number
Non-British EU nationals	2,480
Non-EU foreign nationals	8,874
Not recorded	904
UK nationals	67,361
Total	79,619

The following is a link to show European Union membership:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1139991776535

Mr. Wiltshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convicted prisoners in England and Wales are *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(b)* non-British citizens whose entitlement to be in the UK is in doubt; and what percentage of the total number of convicted prisoners each category represents. [128494]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out on 23 May 2006 in a written ministerial statement that there is currently no unique personal identifier for individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice, immigration and asylum systems.

Information about the immigration status of persons convicted of a crime is therefore not routinely collated or held centrally by the Department and only available at disproportionate cost.

The Border and Immigration Agency and the criminal justice agencies are testing new processes for establishing and recording nationality within the criminal justice system. In the longer term the National Identity scheme offers a way of moving towards a comprehensive approach to identity management across all our systems.

Highly Skilled Migrants Programme

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason changes to the highly skilled migrants programme are to be applied retrospectively; and if he will make a statement. [131136]

Mr. Byrne: The changes made to the highly skilled migrant programme (HSMP) last year are not being applied retrospectively. The criteria which individuals need to satisfy are those in place at the time they make their application: grants of leave made before the changes are not being re-assessed under the new criteria.

Identity Cards

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to publish a code of practice on penalties under section 34 of the Identity Cards Act 2006. [131391]

Joan Ryan: An initial draft code of practice was published for information during the passage of the Identity Cards Bill in December 2005 and can be viewed on the Identity and Passport Service website at:

http://www.identitycards.gov.uk/downloads/05-12-05_DRAFT_Code_of_Practice.pdf

This initial draft does not reflect the changes that were subsequently made to the Identity Cards Bill before it obtained Royal Assent in March 2006 and so a further revised draft will be published for consultation in due course and before the code of practice is laid before Parliament for approval.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted of an offence under section 25 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 in each month since its coming into force; how many and what percentage of those convicted received custody; how many of those who received custody received (i) 0 to six months imprisonment, (ii) six to 12 months imprisonment, (iii) 12 to 18 months imprisonment and (iv) over 18 months imprisonment; and of those convicted how many received a recommendation for deportation. [131416]

Joan Ryan: Section 25 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 created new criminal offences relating to the possession of false identity documents and came into force on 7 June 2006.

Information on arrests for recorded crime offences under section 25 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 is not separately identifiable within the arrests collection held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The collection is based on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by main offence group (i.e.

fraud and forgery, violence against the person, robbery, burglary, criminal damage etc.) only. The Crown Prosecution Service has no defendant-based information relating to particular offences.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate: Compensation

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the largest sum was paid by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate to a member of the public in settlement of a compensation claim in each of the last three financial years for which figures are available. [130674]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Gentleman on 21 March.

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the members are of the Employers Task Force on the points-based system for immigration control. [128528]

Mr. Byrne: A list of the current members of the taskforce is in the following table.

Membership list for the Employers Taskforce

Name	*Position*	*Organisation*
Caroline Waters	Director of People and Policy	British Telecom
Nickie Titterington	Head of Employee Relations	BUPA Care Services
Jonathan Ferrar	HR Director for the UK	IBM
Sandra Ellis	Head of Visas and Work Permits	Shell International
Helen Stacey	Director	SMART Recruitment
Lindsey Barras	Director	Citigroup
Naomi Corrie Hobbs	Executive Director Co-Head of EMEA Global Mobility Services	Goldman Sachs
Sarah Buttler	Director Global	Ernst and Young
Manabu Ozawa	Director	Honda Manufacturing
Tracy Yates	Partner for Immigration	Eversheds Plc.
Peter Sewell	Group Personnel Manager	Tesco Plc
Louvain Alien	Director	Bechtel
Ruth Harper	Head of Corporate Communications	Manpower UK Ltd.
Keith Sharp	Associate Director	Nasscom
Tom Hughes	Managing Director	Raymond Lamb Ltd.
Tom Moran	Senior Policy Advisor	Confederation of British Industry
Sam Bamford	Head if EU and International Relations Department	Trade Union Congress
Tom Hadley	Director External Relations Manager	Recruitment and Employment Confederation
Martin Couchman	Deputy Chief Executive	British Hospitality Association
Martin Green	Director	English Community Care Association
Kamal Rahman	Director	Indian Business Group
Foluke Ajayi	Head NHS Careers and Workforce Supply NHS Employers	NHS Employers
Paul Deemer	Director	NHS Employers
John Baker	Assistant Director, Management Skills and Leadership	Department for Trade and Industry
Simon Lovett	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Ukvisas
Neil Chrimes	Head of Strategy and Programmes	City of London Corporation
Richard Stirling	—	HM-Treasury
Aaron Tuni	—	HM-Treasury

Immigration and Visa Applications

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's policy is on the future appeals system for failed visa applications; and if he will make a statement. [112705]

Mr. Byrne: Those who are refused entry clearance to come to the UK under the new points-based system will not have full rights of appeal. In cases where entry clearance is refused, unsuccessful applicants will be able to apply for an administrative review of the refusal. The entry clearance officer's refusal notice will set out precisely why the decision has been made, referring back to the criteria for which points are awarded. When applying for administrative review the applicant must set out which aspect of the decision, as justified in the refusal letter, was incorrect. Administrative review will provide applicants with a swift and effective remedy where a factual error has been made.

Family visitors and dependants are not covered by the points-based system.

Immigration: EC Enlargement

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what methodology is used to estimate the number of residents from accession states who are in the UK. [121964]

Mr. Byrne: Since Parliament unanimously approved the Free Movement of People Directive in 2006 accession nationals have the right of free movement across the UK.

The Home Office has not made an estimate of the number of residents from accession states that are in the UK.

IND Policy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action his Department has taken on the recommendation of the Home Affairs Select Committee on 13 July 2006 that the Immigration and Nationality Directorate should re-examine its policy of not providing information to third parties. [115433]

Mr. Byrne: I am currently actively reviewing our policy in this area.

Internal Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which internal Home Office reviews have been instigated since 6th May 2005; which of those reviews *(a)* have been completed and *(b)* are ongoing; and what the estimated cost is of conducting each review. [110579]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 January 2007]:* To identify every review that falls under this broad category of "internal Home Office reviews" could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Migrant Workers: Agriculture

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people entered the UK under the seasonal agricultural workers scheme in each of the last 10 years, broken down by country of origin; and if he will estimate the number of those workers who failed to return to their country of origin in each year. [122078]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics are recorded on the nationality of persons admitted to the UK under the seasonal agricultural workers scheme. These are given in the following table.

Passengers[1] given leave to enter the UK: seasonal agricultural workers, 1996 to 2005[2]

Nationality	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001[3]*	*2002[4]*	*2003*	*2004[5]*	*2005[5]*
Europe										
Bulgaria	510	1,150	1,050	1,185	1,290	1,100	1,730	1,965	1,580	2,425
Cyprus	5	—	—	—	•	—	—	•	—	—
Czech Republic	205	295	270	270	250	575	520	385	5	—
Estonia	90	155	180	115	125	265	305	485	45	—
Hungary	55	75	105	95	100	75	100	80	20	—
Latvia	90	230	250	290	340	590	985	1,635	1,085	—
Lithuania	710	1,250	1,435	1,375	1,255	515	2,090	2,615	795	—
Poland	2,120	3,660	3,680	3,470	3,195	3,760	4,485	6,175	1,620	—
Romania	130	285	190	315	305	125	330	545	750	1,440
Slovakia	545	835	785	310	365	420	815	845	5	—
Russia	290	190	105	130	215	255	625	1,005	1,645	1,940
Ukraine	540	795	1,015	1,670	1,835	135	3,640	3,235	4,980	4,460
Other former USSR	70	140	145	205	420	310	865	1,340	2,045	2,385
Switzerland	•	•	—	•	•	•	—	—	—	—
Turkey	50	40	20	30	25	45	25	55	5	15
Croatia	—	•	•	•	—	•	•	•	—	•
Slovenia	•	5	10	•	5	10	5	—	—	—
Serbia and Montenegro[6]	•	•	—	•	•	•	•	5	95	75
Other former Yugoslavia	30	50	85	140	125	55	80	60	50	40
Other Europe	—	—	•	5	•	—	•	•	105	60
Total Europe	5,440	9,153	9,340	9,610	9,855	8,240	16,600	20,430	14,830	12,845
Americas										
Argentina	—	—	5	•	5	•	—	—	•	—
Brazil	•	•	—	—	•	•	•	—	5	•
Canada	—	5	—	—	•	5	5	•	—	5
Colombia	—	—	—	—	—	—	•	•	•	—
Jamaica	—	—	—	•	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mexico	—	—	—	—	—	•	—	—	•	•
Peru	•	—	—	—	—	—	•	•	—	•
USA	—	5	•	—	5	•	10	•	5	10
Venezuela	—	—	—	—	•	—	—	—	—	—
Other Americas	—	5	•	—	•	•	15	10	•	•
Total Americas	•	10	5	•	10	10	30	15	20	20
Africa										
Algeria	—	—	—	—	—	•	—	—	—	—

Passengers[1] given leave to enter the UK: seasonal agricultural workers, 1996 to 2005[2]

Nationality	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001[3]*	*2002[4]*	*2003*	*2004[5]*	*2005[6]*
Angola	*	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congo Dem. Rep.	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Egypt	*	5	*	*	—	—	—	5	*	—
Ethiopia	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	*	—	—
Ghana	15	15	10	15	10	10	*	*	5	5
Kenya	5	5	5	5	5	*	5	5	5	5
Libya	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mauritius	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	5	—	*
Morocco	*	*	*	*	*	—	*	5	—	*
Nigeria	5	5	—	*	*	*	*	*	*	—
Sierra Leone	*	*	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—
Somalia	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Africa	—	—	—	*	*	—	*	*	*	5
Sudan	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	*	*	—
Tanzania	20	15	10	5	10	5	5	5	*	5
Tunisia	5	5	*	*	—	*	5	*	—	—
Uganda	5	—	*	*	*	—	*	5	*	5
Zambia	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	*	—
Zimbabwe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	*
Other Africa	15	10	10	25	25	15	15	10	10	20
Total Africa	75	60	45	55	55	35	35	45	30	45
Asia										
Bangladesh	*	*	—	5	—	*	—	—	*	5
India	*	—	*	*	5	10	10	15	20	*
Pakistan	*	*	*	*	—	*	—	—	—	*
Iran	—	*	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—
Iraq	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
Israel	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—
Jordan	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	*	—	—
Lebanon	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	5	*	*
Syria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	*
Yemen	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Middle East	*	*	*	—	—	*	—	—	—	*
China	5	—	—	10	30	30	70	45	*	—
Hong Kong	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—
Indonesia	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	—
Japan	*	5	*	—	*	—	—	5	*	—
Malaysia	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
Philippines	—	—	—	—	*	—	*	*	5	—
South Korea	—	—	—	—	*	—	5	—	*	5
Sri Lanka	5	*	*	*	*	*	5	*	—	*
Thailand	—	—	*	—	—	*	—	—	—	—
Other Asia	*	5	*	25	110	30	80	70	45	35
Total Asia	15	20	10	45	145	70	175	140	75	55
Oceania										
Australia	5	—	5	5	5	*	15	10	20	10
New Zealand	—	*	5	*	*	*	—	10	5	*
Total Oceania	5	*	5	10	5	5	15	20	25	10
Nationality unknown	10	30	40	35	30	30	55	65	60	10
All nationalities	5,545	9,275	9,430	9,760	10,105	8,390	16,910	20,715	15,040	12,985

[1] Those subject to immigration controls, and relates to passenger journeys—so that a person entering the UK more than once in a given year is counted on each occasion if given fresh leave.
[2] Provisional and subject to change.
[3] Data for 2001 may understate the actual arrivals due to data quality issues in recording the entry of persons under the scheme.
[4] From 1 June 2002, EEA states conferred on nationals of Switzerland the same rights as those enjoyed by EEA nationals.
[5] Includes the A10 accession states before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.
[6] Serbia and Montenegro (SAM) replaced Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) from 5 February 2003. SAM comprises the Republic of Serbia, the Republic of Montenegro and the Province of Kosovo (administered by the UN on an interim basis since 1999).

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest five with "*" = less than three and "—" = nil, as such figures may not sum to the totals shown.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many incidents of recorded violent crime a crossbow was used as an offensive weapon in each year since 1997. [131238]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available centrally. Offences involving crossbows cannot be identified in the recorded crime statistics.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the power to authorise stop and search for offensive weapons within a specified area for the period of 24 hours under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 has been enacted by a senior police officer in each year since the Act came into force. [131246]

Mr. McNulty: Available information on stops and searches under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 from 1995 to 2004-05 of persons or vehicles can be found in table PB of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 'Arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) and the Operation of Certain Police Powers under PACE, 2004-05 England and Wales', given in the following table. It is also available on the web at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb2105.pdf.

Information for 2005-06 will be available later in 2007.

Table PB. Searches of persons or vehicles under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and resultant arrests

Number

Stops and searches in anticipation of violence in England and Wales

	Total searches	*Number of persons found to be carrying offensive weapons or dangerous instruments*	*Arrests for offensive weapons*	*Arrests for other reasons*
1995 (from 10 April)	2,380	205	58	109
1996	7,020	187	132	371
1996-97	7,970	177	129	392
1997-98	7,970	377	103	332
1998-99[1]	5,500	213	91	84
1999-2000	6,840	59	36	195
2000-01	11,330	357	309	411
2001-02	18,900	1,367	203	485
2002-03[2]	44,400	1,568	356	2,142
2003-04[3]	40,400	557	299	1,248
2004-05	41,300	275	242	941

[1] Figures amended since publication of the 1998-99 Bulletin.
[2] Figures amended since publication of the 2002-03 Bulletin.
[3] Figures amended since publication of the 2003-04 Bulletin.

Prison Overcrowding

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to extend early release provisions in order to alleviate prison overcrowding. [129656]

John Reid: I have no plans to do so. The National Offender Management Service is dealing with pressures on the prison estate by building more capacity. We will always ensure that there will be prison places for those serious, sexual and seriously persistent offenders who ought to be in prison.

Prisons: Visits

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visits were received by *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners in each of the last five years. [130531]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* Statistics on the number of visits to prisoners are not centrally collated and there is currently no national system for recording such data. Prisoners have a statutory entitlement to social visits and are also able to earn additional visits under the Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serious crime agency officers are embedded in *(a)* other law enforcement agencies and *(b)* private organisations within the financial sector (i) within the UK and (ii) overseas. [131683]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is in the following table.

	UK	*Overseas*
Other law enforcement agencies	32	23
Private organisations	0	0

Young Offenders

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1460-1W, on young offenders, what steps his Department is taking to improve the accuracy of statistics recorded for breaches of *(a)* supervision orders with conditions, *(b)* curfew orders, *(c)* community punishment and rehabilitation orders, *(d)* community punishment

orders, *(e)* detention and training orders, *(f)* reparation orders, *(g)* action plan orders, *(h)* attendance centre orders, *(i)* supervision orders without conditions and *(j)* drug treatment and testing orders; and if he will make a statement. [131736]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: Although about 5 per cent. of breach data are reported to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) by the Crown Court, the rest covering magistrates courts are reported by either magistrates courts or police forces. Responsibility for processing, validating and disseminating the data rests with OCJR.

A link between the new case management system for magistrates courts, being developed by the Department for Constitutional Affairs and OCJR, is replacing the current reporting systems employed by magistrates courts and the police.

It is expected to provide the necessary improvement in the data supplied and will begin replacing data under those systems later this year.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Heating

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the total cost of heating the buildings on the House of Commons estate was in each of the last three years; and what targets are in place for future years. [120548]

Nick Harvey: It is not possible to determine the total cost of heating the buildings on the House of Commons estate. All the buildings are heated by natural gas boilers which are not metered separately; the gas meters record total consumption for providing hot water services as well as heating. The approximate total gas consumption and cost for each of the last three years has been:

	Consumption MWh	*Cost (£ million)*
2003-04	21.5	0.3
2004-05	20.0	0.3
2005-06	21.6	0.4

The increase in cost for 2005-06 is mainly due to significant increases in the unit price of gas in that year. Gas consumption reduced in 2004-05 and then increased in 2005-06; due to fluctuations in heating energy consumption caused by variations in outside temperatures measured in degree days. The following table shows the degree days for the Thames Valley region which includes London. From these figures a higher consumption would have been expected in 2005-06. That it was not so is due to the installation of more efficient Palace boilers in 2004.

	Degree days
2003-04	1,740
2004-05	1,703
2005-06	1,869

A target

"to reduce energy consumption measured in terms of kWh of fuel and electricity used per square metre of building floor area by 15 per cent. by 2010-11, relative to 1999-2000"

is contained in the Energy and Water Saving Policy adopted by both Houses.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Community Relations

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what organisations applied for funding under the community relations core funding scheme 2007-10; and which organisations were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful with their application. [131680]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education received 59 applications. Twenty-six organisations were successful and are listed at A. Thirty-three organisations were unsuccessful and are listed at B.

Point A lists the organisations that were successful in securing funding.

A

Community Relations in Schools
Panarts
Bytes Project
Children's Project NI
Verbal Arts Centre (NI) Ltd.
Youth Link
Corrymeela
Ulster Folk and Transport Museum
School of Education (University of Ulster)
NI Children's Enterprise
Co-operation Ireland
NIPPA—Early Years Organisation
NUS/USI (National Union of Students—Union of Students Ireland)
NI Council for Integrated Education
Public Achievement
Spirit of Enniskillen Trust
Creggan Education and Research Services
Belfast YMCA
Kilcranny House
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
REACT
Nerve Centre
NI Children's Holidays Scheme
National Trust
Forthspring Inter-Community Group
Harmony Community Trust (Successful after Appeal)

Point B lists the applications that were unsuccessful.

B

Forward Learning
Lurgan YMCA
Dun Uladh Ltd.
Christian Education Movement
Tides Training
Armagh City and District Council

Youth Action (NI)
YMCA Ireland
Speedwell Trust
Playhouse
Belfast Activity Centre
Horizon Project (Ireland) Ltd.
Churches Peace Education Programme
Challenge for Youth
Northwest Centre for Learning and Development
Playing for Peace
Junction
STEER Mental Health Organisation
Boys' Brigade
All Set Cross Cultural Project
REACH Across
Brownlow Campus Trust
Cumann Gaelach Chnoc na Ros
Ulster Wildlife Trust
Keady and District Youth Steering Group
Scout Association (NI)
Downpatrick/Listowel Linkage Group
Common Purpose
Kilkeel Parish Bridge Association Ltd.
SEEDS
Council for Education in World Citizenship (NI)
St. Aloysius, Harmony Hill and St. Joseph's PS
St. Patrick's Centre

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which organisations appealed the decision not to grant funding under the community relations core funding scheme 2007-10; and which organisations were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful with their appeals. [131681]

Maria Eagle: The organisations listed as follows appealed the Department's decision not to grant funding under the community relations core-funding scheme 2007-10:

Forward Learning
Lurgan YMCA
Tides Training
Armagh City and District Council
Harmony Community Trust
Christian Education Movement
The Horizon Project (Ireland) Ltd.
St. Patrick's Centre.

Harmony Community Trust was the only group to make a successful appeal.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland who the members are of the *(a)* decision making group and *(b)* appeals panel for the community relations core funding scheme 2007-10; and why each was appointed. [131682]

Maria Eagle: The information is as follows:

(a) Advisory Panel Members (Decision Making Group)

Mrs. Phyllis Richardson—Chairperson, Community Relations Branch, Department of Education

Mr. James Peel—Youth Advisor, South Eastern Education and Library Board

Ms Frances McCandless—Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action

Mr. Paul Jordan—Community Relations Council

Mr. Walker Ewart—Education and Training Inspectorate, Department of Education.

(b) Appeal Panel Members

Mrs. Louise Warde Hunter—Chairperson, Head of Policy, Research and Youth Division, Department of Education

Mr. Richard Hodgett—European Funding Unit, Department of Education

Ms Geraldine McGreevy—Senior Youth Officer, Belfast Education and Library Board.

Members of both the Advisory and Appeals panels were appointed on the basis of their experience of community relations education and youth sectors and knowledge of funding and accountability requirements.

Fly Tipping

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has received from the Irish government on the police investigation into an incident in County Tyrone in February 2004 when a journalist found briefing papers originating from the Irish Department of Justice at an illegal dump. [131022]

Mr. Hain: There have been no representations received from the Irish Government in relation to this incident.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the impact on pharmacy practice planning of clawing back sums for multiple dispensing of prescription items. [130690]

Paul Goggins: The Department recently withdrew its intention to reduce the multiple dispensing fee for 2006-07 and reinstated the rate of all fees to their former levels for 2006-07, pending the outcome of further negotiations with the Pharmaceutical Contractors' Committee (PCC). The February claw-back has therefore been reversed and repaid to pharmacies in the March monthly payment.

Negotiations recently concluded will result in an increase in the pharmacists' main dispensing fee from £1.04 to £1.11 per item for both 2006-07 and 2007-08. This will mean a further arrears payment shortly for those 2006-07 prescription items already processed by the Central Services Agency.

Recent discussions with PCC have led to meaningful progress towards resolution of multiple dispensing and medicines management issues, with both parties agreeing to look urgently at this issue as part of the ongoing negotiations on the new pharmacy contract.

PRIME MINISTER

Former Ministers: Business Interests

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it a requirement that former Ministers wishing to

take up appointments subject to scrutiny by the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments within two years of leaving office must seek clearance from that body. [131070]

The Prime Minister: Guidance for Ministers on the acceptance of appointments after leaving ministerial office is set out in the ministerial code.

Minister Policy Advisers: Autobiography

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the merits of requiring former Government advisers to submit draft manuscripts of their memoirs to the Secretary of the Cabinet for comment and approval. [130764]

The Prime Minister: The requirements placed on former civil servants, including special advisers, in relation to the publication of memoirs are set out in section 4 of the Civil Service Management Code.

Ministers: Codes of Practice

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy for oversight of the ministerial code to be vested in Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [131018]

The Prime Minister: Section 1 of the Ministerial Code sets out the lines of accountability.

Petitions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many petitions on the Downing Street website have so far been *(a)* received, *(b)* approved and *(c)* rejected; [131571]

(2) what the average time is to approve or reject a petition request for the Downing Street website. [131584]

The Prime Minister: Information on e-petitions is available on the No. 10 website (http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page11051.asp). A copy of this web page has been placed in the Library of the House.

Public Sector: Standards

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister what recent steps he has taken to foster and promote the public's trust in those in public life. [131166]

The Prime Minister: The Ministerial Code was last updated in July 2005. In March 2006 I appointed Sir John Bourn KCB as independent adviser on Ministers' interests. I have renounced my right as Prime Minister to nominate individuals directly for honours and announced an independent review of party funding, which has now concluded. A new Civil Service Code was also issued last year.

In addition, this Government were the first to publish a Ministerial Code, the document Travel by Ministers, a model contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers as well as annual lists of travel by Cabinet Ministers and gifts given to Ministers.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Biofuels

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of biomass to the security of energy supply to the UK. [129053]

Malcolm Wicks: The potential contribution of bioenergy towards the Government's energy policy and climate change objectives was reported on by the Biomass Task Force in October 2005 and in the Government's Response to the Task Force published in April 2006.

The Government are expecting to publish a UK Biomass Strategy in May 2007. The Biomass Strategy outlines how our policies on biomass for industry, energy and transport jointly operate to provide a clear, coherent and co-ordinated framework for the development of biomass as a whole and identifies the challenges to delivery.

Business Link

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received on the regionalisation of Business Link. [105800]

Margaret Hodge: Decisions concerning the operational delivery arrangements have been devolved to the regional development agencies (RDAs) who have carried out full consultation with local stakeholders on delivery arrangements.

However, any proposals by RDAs in awarding contracts for the delivery of Business Link branded service are subject to clearance from the DTI's Secretary of State by submitting their proposals to the Central Project Review Group (CPRG) process. CPRG is used to establish value-for-money during the process of awarding contracts. CPRG consists of representatives from DTI, HM Treasury and the Small Business Service.

I apologise for the delay in responding. This was due to an administrative error.

Businesses: EC Countries

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what methods of finding a business partner in another EU member state for the purposes of an application under the European Research and Development Programme are open to UK businesses. [130675]

Malcolm Wicks: The European Commission provides, through its well-established "CORDIS" service, a free on-line partner search service to help organisations find research partners, either in the context of specific EU-funded R and D projects or broader searches for technology-oriented partnerships. This service can also be used by organisations to advertise project ideas, partnering needs and expertise requirements. The service can be accessed at:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/partners_en.html

The European Union's R and D Framework Programme also funds a number of thematic-specific databases, including:

"SMEs go Health" which offers profiles of SMEs and research institutes interested in becoming involved in Framework Programme research projects, as well as partner searches of research consortia looking for SME partners.

"Ideal-ist Partner Search Facility" provides helps find partners for ICT project ideas.

"NAnoMITEC" helps SMEs interested in micro and nano technologies by supporting them in joining R and D projects.

In addition, the European Commission occasionally organises brokerage events in certain areas of the Framework Programme.

UK organisations can also contact the relevant UK Framework Programme National Contact Point who should be able to" help identify potential partners. Details of these contact points can be found on the UK Framework Programme website at:

http://www.fp7uk.dti.gov.uk/

EC Energy Policy

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the EU on establishing a common energy policy across all 27 member states. [131261]

Malcolm Wicks: The formation of a common EU energy policy was agreed by Heads of State and Government at the Hampton Court informal summit, during the UK presidency of the EU in 2005. Since then, the formation of a common EU energy policy has been discussed at:

the December 2005 European Council, attended by the Prime Minister;

the March 2006 Energy Council, which I attended as Energy Minister;

the March 2006 European Council, attended by the Prime Minister;

the June 2006 Energy Council, which I attended as Energy Minister;

the June 2006 European Council, attended by the Prime Minister;

the October 2006 informal European Council, held at Lahti, Finland, attended by the Prime Minister;

the November 2006 Energy Council, attended by Lord Truscott;

the December 2006 European Council, attended by the Prime Minister; and

the February 2007 Energy Council, attended by Lord Truscott.

In addition, the Secretary of State, Lord Truscott and I have had numerous bi-lateral meetings with our opposite numbers around the EU and with the Commission.

At the spring European Council, 8 to 9 March 2007, Heads of State and Government discussed the Strategic Energy Review, published by the Commission on 10 January 2007, and adopted an Energy Action Plan.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advice his Department is making available to small businesses on compliance with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [129348]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has made extensive efforts to inform all industry, including small businesses, of the requirements of this directive since its publication in the EC's *Official Journal* in February 2003.

These have included, most recently, the publication in February this year of Government Guidance Notes clarifying the obligations that will be brought into force from 1 July 2007. The Department also ran a series of roadshows across the UK in January and February this year, specifically targeted at small and medium-sized businesses, and is continuing dialogue with a number of organisations representing the small business community, including the Federation of Small Businesses and RETRA (the Radio, Electrical and Television Retailers' Association).

Energy Technologies Institute

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what criteria will be taken into account in selecting the *(a)* location and *(b)* partners for the Energy Technologies Institute. [131649]

Malcolm Wicks: Research organisations across the UK were invited in January to provide information on energy-related research capacity, capabilities and resources and to indicate any interest in hosting the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) director and support staff. The submissions are being considered by representatives of the industrial and public sector funding partners who will prepare initial advice for the ETI Board, once legally established, and the director, once appointed, to consider in detail and to follow up as appropriate. Decisions will be a matter for the ETI itself. The key criteria being used to assess the submissions to host the ETI director are:

Reputation and culture: in particular, a world class reputation for research and development across a range of energy themes; and strong existing industrial and academic relationships, with sustained collaborative working and networking track record;

Space, facilities and location: including ability to expand to provide a suite of office/conferencing facilities commensurate with the developing needs and aspirations of the ETI, thus providing a showcase for the ETI; with good communications and access;

Commitment to support and promote ETI; and

Value for money.

An update will be available on the ETI website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/science/science-funding/eti/ shortly.

Once specific research and development programmes have been determined by ETI, the selection of research partners will be based on those best equipped to undertake the programmes.

Enterprise Week

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what the cost was of *(a)* creating and *(b)* running the Enterprise Week website in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006 to date; [113187]

(2) what the cost was of (a) creating and (b) running the Make Your Mark campaign website in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006 to date. [113188]

Margaret Hodge: The information is as follows.

www.starttalkingideas.org is the website of Enterprise Insight's Make Your Mark campaign, and includes the dedicated Enterprise Week sub-pages, accessible by the URL www.enterpriseweek.org Enterprise Insight have advised that separate figures for the Enterprise Week sub-pages are not kept, as they come under the contract for the main website.

They also advise that the total costs for creating the campaign website were:

	£
1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004	139,516
1 January 2005 to 31 March 2006	156,947
1 April 2006 to 31 December 2006	88,007

The total costs for running the campaign website were:

	£
1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004	100
1 January 2005 to 31 March 2006	916
1 April 2006 to 31 December 2006	6,166

I apologise for the delay in responding. This was due to an administrative error.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many households were allocated grants under the low carbon buildings programme in each month from May to November 2006. [129501]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows.

	Number of households allocated grants
May 2006	121
June 2006	349
July 2006	573
August 2006	499
September 2006	392
October 2006	1,071
November 2006	1,050

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many applications have been received by the Low Carbon Buildings programme since 2006. [131252]

Malcolm Wicks: Since the launch of the Low Carbon Buildings programme in April 2006, we have received 6,331 applications to date. The breakdown of this is as follows:

Stream	*Number of applications*
1A—Household	6,020
1B—Community	112
2A—Business, public sector, non-profit (< £100,000 grants)	190
2B—Business, public sector, non-profit (< £1 million grants)	9

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Wales

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many applications to the Low Carbon Buildings programme have been (a) made and (b) granted in Wales, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [131253]

Malcolm Wicks: For the Low Carbon Buildings programme, we only hold statistics for specific areas in Wales as set out in the following table.

Area	*Number of applications*	*Number of grants*
Anglesey	1	1
Cardiff	23	16
Cardigan	1	1
Carmarthenshire	7	6
Ceredigion	4	1
Clwyd	35	30
Denbighshire	2	1
Dyfed	91	83
Flintshire	2	1
Glamorgan	2	1
Gwent	36	32
Gwynedd	54	47
Mid Glamorgan	21	19
Monmouthshire	1	1
Pembrokeshire	8	7
Port Talbot	1	1
Powys	112	103
South Glamorgan	14	11
Swansea	19	15
Torfaen	1	1
West Glamorgan	10	9

Natural Gas: Greater London

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what information the Government hold on the condition of London's gas mains; what estimate he has made of the funding necessary to improve conditions; how much is being spent on improvements; and if he will make a statement. [130464]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government do not retain information on the condition of London's gas mains.

However, on 26 March, Ofgem published its gas distribution price control review fourth consultation document which contained some relevant information. National Grid gas distribution is forecasting that it will spend £332 million (in 2005-06 prices) on mains replacement between 2008-09 and 2012-13 in its north London network as well as an additional £158 million

on associated service replacement. Scotia is forecasting that it will spend £521 million over the same period in its south England network as well as an additional £384 million in associated service replacement.

This document sets out Ofgem's consultants' initial recommendations on whether this level of spend was efficient. Ofgem will be publishing their initial proposals on the appropriate level of expenditure for each gas distribution network for 2008-09 to 2012-13 at the end of May.

Natural Gas: Pipelines

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will allow National Grid to consult on all sections of the new national grid natural gas pipeline complying with section 2 of the Public Gas Transporter Pipeline Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999. [130057]

Malcolm Wicks: Regulation 10 of the 1999 Regulations requires an application to be advertised and a period given for representations to be made to the Secretary of State.

Ofgem

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of Ofgem's performance in fulfilling its duty to have regard for the interests of low-income consumers; and if he will make a statement. [131293]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the Gas Act 1986 and the Electricity Act 1989, as amended, the Authority is required, in carrying out its functions, to have regard to the interests of, among others, individuals with low incomes. While the DTI does monitor the overall performance of the energy market and its regularity framework, Ofgem's accountability for its performance against its statutory duties is to the Public Accounts Committee.

Renewable Energy: Grants

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what grants were made to domestic households in England for renewable energy in each month since April 2006; and for how many days in each month those grants were available. [128789]

Malcolm Wicks: *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* The Low Carbon Buildings programme phase 1 was launched in April 2006. The following table shows the grant commitments to householders and the number of days that grants were available in each month since the scheme was launched.

	Grant commitments	*Number of days grants available*
May 2006	121	31
June 2006	349	30
July 2006	573	31
August 2006	499	31
September 2006	392	30
October 2006	1,071	31
November 2006	1,050	30
December 2006	344	18
January 2007	263	12
February 2007	199	1
March 2007	192	1

In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the low carbon buildings programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream will be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be re-shaped.

Small Businesses

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 637W, on small businesses, what estimate he has made of *(a)* the total number of businesses in the UK and *(b)* the total number of businesses in the UK which are categorised as family businesses. [131660]

Mr. Darling: *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* The DTI produces estimates of the number of businesses in its small and medium enterprise statistics publication. At the start of 2005 there were 4.3 million businesses in the UK.

The DTI in its annual small business survey defines a family business as one "majority owned by members of the same family". The 2005 survey found that 65 per cent of all small and medium-sized enterprises were family businesses, which equates to 2.8 million businesses in the UK.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 637W, on small businesses, what estimate he has made of the total percentage of UK gross domestic product which is derived from the activities of family businesses. [131661]

Mr. Darling: *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* It is not possible to provide precise estimates of the total contribution of family businesses to UK gross domestic product from statistical data on the business population.

However the DTI Annual Small Business Survey 2005 indicates that 65 per cent. of all small and medium-sized enterprises are family businesses. Based on this proportion we would expect family businesses that are also small and medium-sized enterprises to contribute around £220 billion in gross value added to the UK economy.

Solar Power

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential for solar power to contribute to the energy mix over the next five to 15 years; and what policies he has to maximise solar heat and solar electricity production. [127407]

Malcolm Wicks: The Energy Saving Trust undertook a study on behalf of the DTI (Potential for Microgeneration: Study and Analysis)—http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/index.html that examines the potential of all microgeneration technologies to contribute to the energy mix over the next 45 years.

The Government's Microgeneration Strategy (published in March 2006)—http:/www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/strategy/page 27594.html sets out a number of measures aimed at promoting microgeneration technologies, including solar power. The Code for Sustainable Homes and the Building a Greener Future consultation (both published in December 2006 by Communities and Local Government Department—http://www,communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1503251) contain measures that should further promote microgeneration.

TRANSPORT

Road Haulage

9. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures his Department has considered to reduce the transportation of goods by road; and if he will make a statement. [131458]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department provides grant funding for rail and water freight where appropriate. In 2005-06 we provided over £23 million that have removed 840,000 lorry journeys from the roads. The Government also promote efficiency within the road sector through the Freight Best Practice and other programmes.

School Transport

10. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage more sustainable school transport. [131459]

Gillian Merron: The Government are promoting sustainable school travel and transport through the Travelling to School project, supported by more than £100 million funding up to 2008. Our stated objective is for all schools to have an approved school travel plan by 2010. In addition, the Education and Inspection Act places a duty on local authorities to promote sustainable travel to school to all children and to increase the free home to school transport provision for children in low-income families.

Railway Stations

11. **Mr. Love:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many railway stations are expected to receive Access for All funding. [131460]

Mr. Tom Harris: We have announced 92 stations in England and Wales that we expect Network Rail to improve up to 2011 and are developing the list of stations that will be included in the programme between 2012 and 2015.

Work at more than 500 other stations has been approved up to March 2008 under the Access for All small schemes programme. There will be further rounds of bidding each year until at least 2015.

Public Transport: Overcrowding

12. **Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are being considered for the alleviation of public transport overcrowding. [131461]

Gillian Merron: The Government are tackling overcrowding on public transport through a combination of investment in additional capacity and improved use of existing capacity.

Railways: Overcrowding

13. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce overcrowding on the railways. [131462]

17. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to ease congestion on trains. [131466]

Mr. Tom Harris: We will continue to increase capacity through the franchising process and in other ways. In particular, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 14 March that the High Level Output Specification, to be published in the summer, will include a commitment to a thousand extra carriages. They will be targeted at the most congested routes on the network.

Rail Infrastructure

14. **Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Network Rail on improvements to rail infrastructure. [131463]

Mr. Tom Harris: I have regular discussions with the chief executive of Network Rail over a range of issues including infrastructure improvements. Departmental officials are continually engaged with the company over the development and implementation of enhancements to railway capacity and performance.

Train Services: Shropshire

15. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Office of the Rail Regulator on train services in Shropshire. [131464]

Mr. Tom Harris: Department for Transport officials have had several meetings with counterparts from the Office of Rail Regulation concerning the emerging track access requirements of both franchised and open access train operators, in the light of the ongoing competition for the new cross country and west midlands franchises, and the application for access rights made by the Wrexham, Shropshire and Marylebone open access railway company.

Railway Usage

16. **Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will undertake a benchmarking exercise to assess railway usage in the UK against other EU member states. [131465]

Mr. Tom Harris: A range of comparative information is collected at European level and the Department draws on this in the development of its policy. We have no plans to undertake any specific exercise to benchmark rail demand.

Environmentally Friendly Vehicles

18. **Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to encourage motorists to choose more environmentally friendly vehicles. [131467]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government have introduced fiscal incentives for consumers to buy cleaner vehicles. A communications campaign currently provides advice on purchasing cleaner vehicles and on fuel efficient driving. The Government have also supported the car fuel economy label helping consumers make informed choices when buying a new car.

Train Services: Disabled Passengers

19. **Mr. Malik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in providing more accessible trains for disabled passengers. [131468]

Mr. Tom Harris: Over 4,500 new fully accessible train carriages comply with the Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations, which were introduced in 1998. This represents over a third of the national heavy rail fleet. In addition, improvements to the accessibility of almost all older trains are made when their interiors are refurbished.

Cycling

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the extent to which second round Local Transport Plans (LTPs) include commitments to support Government policies on cycling; and to what extent the inclusion of such commitments has influenced the Government's assessments of LTPs and the resulting funding allocations. [131222]

Gillian Merron: The guidance offered by the Department to local authorities on the preparation of the second Local Transport Plans included many references to cycling policies, and authorities were required to include a target on cycling trips in their plans. With one minor exception, every plan proposes to increase or stabilise levels of cycling locally.

The assessments of LTPs considered evidence that the plans addressed the problems and opportunities across the full range of transport modes, including cycling. A detailed technical note on the method of assessment and the implications for funding can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/capital/ltpsettle06/

Cycling: Accidents

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce the number of cyclist fatalities involving heavy goods vehicles. [131453]

Dr. Ladyman: There were 24 cyclist fatalities involving HGVs during 2005, which is 33 per cent. fewer than the average for 1994-98. The Highway Code advises drivers and cyclists how to avoid these casualties. The Department's leaflet 'Drive Safe Cycle Safe' also encourages drivers and cyclists to share the road safely. RoSPA has produced a DVD on safety for cyclists and lorries, funded by the Department.

Departments: Lobbying

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he has issued on the conduct of relations between lobbyists and *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [130796]

Gillian Merron: Ministers and civil servants act in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Code. Detailed guidance on contacts between civil servants and lobbyists is set out in the Directory of Civil Service Guidance, which is in the Libraries of the House and on the Cabinet Office website.

Heathrow Airport: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether account is being taken of the impact of the planned Colnbrook incinerator in the assessment of pollution levels at Heathrow Airport if a third runway is constructed, with particular reference to nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. [131110]

Gillian Merron: The modelling of future third runway scenarios at Heathrow takes account of industrial emissions in the surrounding area. We are advised that the new Colnbrook incinerator is unlikely to have a material impact on emissions around Heathrow but detailed emissions data for the new plant are being obtained in order to confirm the position.

Heathrow Express Line

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work his Department has undertaken to investigate a second line on the Heathrow Express to St. Pancras. [131753]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport has not carried out any work on this proposal.

London Airports: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the level of emissions of oxides of nitrogen attributable to aircraft landing and take-off was at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick and *(c)* Stansted airports in each year since 1995; what forecasts have been made of future such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [131735]

Gillian Merron: All of the data requested are not readily available. At Heathrow, over 1997 to 2004 there has been no significant trend in the contribution of on-airport sources of NOx which varied between 80 and 100 microgrammes per cubic metre. BAA figure indicates that in 2002, there were 3,780 tonnes of NOx from aircraft during landing, take-off and up to 1,000m. The Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow (PSDH) is currently modelling and forecasting future emissions for Heathrow and we will be consulting on this later in the year.

Pedestrian Crossings

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many schemes have been completed under the Highways Agency's non-motorised user crossings programme. [131196]

Dr. Ladyman: To date, the Highways Agency has completed investigations at 188 crossing points for non-motorised users and has delivered appropriate works. All of these sites were identified within the non-motorised user crossings programme.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what budget is committed for the non-motorised user crossings programme in the 2007-08 financial year; and which schemes are expected to be completed in that year. [131197]

Dr. Ladyman: Non-motorised user crossings improvements are delivered as part of larger schemes within the Highways Agency's programme of road improvement works. As such, costs that are specific to non-motorised user crossings improvements are not recorded separately.

The following table lists sites from the non-motorised user crossings list, published in October 2003, that are currently forecast to be addressed during 2007-08.

Region	*HA area number*	*Route*	*Location*
East	6	A12n	Denmark Road/Katwijk Way
South East	4	A21	Holy Trinity
South East	4	A23	Tilgate Forest Row
South East	4	A27	Selmeston to Alciston
East	8	A428	Eltisley B1040 to Biggleswade
East Midlands	8	A43	Brackley South Roundabout South Crossing
East	8	A5	Little Brickhill Bypass
East Midlands	8	A5	Pottersbury Village
South East	5	M25	Almners Road Overbridge
North East	14	A19	Moor Farm Roundabout
East Midlands	7	A52	South Stapleford
West Midlands	11	M6	Madeley
South West	1	A35	Winterbourne Abbas (scheme 66)
South West	1	A38	Doublebois
South West	1	A36	Old Inn, Kilmington
South East	3	A31	Snells Corner H/A3/3/300
South East	3	A34	Forge Farm H/A34/120

Railways

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many railway lines selective door opening is running. [128096]

Mr. Tom Harris: All modern rolling stock produced in the last 10 years, including Pendolino, Voyager, Meridian, Adelante, Electrostar, Turbostar, and Desiro trains, has a facility for selective control of door opening. Nationally this represents over 1/3 of the UK rolling stock fleet.

The Train Operating Companies use this facility wherever short platforms make it necessary on the lines over which these trains operate, and I have deposited a current list of these lines in the House Library.

Railways: Bicycles

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to support proposed European legislation that would require facilities for bicycles on all European trains. [131195]

Mr. Tom Harris: The UK supports the Common Position reached by the Council and Commission on the International Rail Passengers' Rights and Obligations proposal. This does not mandate facilities for bicycles on all European trains, recognising the limitations of space on some services, particularly during peak hours.

Railways: Freight

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will seek to meet the Secretary of State for Communities, Local Government and the Regions to discuss the planning regime in respect of Railfreight Interchanges following introduction of the Government's proposed Planning-Gain Supplement (Preparations) Bill. [130797]

Mr. Tom Harris: I have no plans to seek a meeting with my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Communities, Local Government and the Regions on this issue. However, officials from both Departments will shortly be meeting with representatives of the Railfreight Interchange Investment Group to discuss issues relating to the planning regime in respect of railfreight interchanges, including the potential introduction of a Planning Gain Supplement.

Railways: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* percentage and *(b)* actual change he expects there to be in numbers of seats on (i) peak and (ii) off-peak services from Milton Keynes Central from January 2009. [132325]

Mr. Tom Harris: Once the examination of bids for the new west midlands franchise has been completed and new timetables for the Virgin West Coast trains (incorporating additional stops) have been further refined it will be possible to provide a full response. I anticipate that train operators will be able to provide accurate details later in the year.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fast, *(b)* semi-fast and *(c)* slow trains he expects to be available per hour from Milton Keynes during (i) peak and (ii) off peak times when the platform upgrade at Milton Keynes station is completed. [132328]

Mr. Tom Harris: The basic pattern of services will consist of three fast Virgin West Coast trains an hour northbound from Milton Keynes Central and two fast services an hour southbound. The exact pattern of services on the semi-fast and slow services will remain broadly unchanged but is dependent upon the bids submitted for the new west midlands franchise. I expect the operator of this franchise and Virgin West Coast trains to provide full details later this year to passengers and stakeholders.

Railways: West Midlands

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans the new west midlands rail franchise operator to be announced. [132326]

Mr. Tom Harris: The new west midlands rail franchise operator is expected to be announced during summer 2007.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what value of *(a)* rail vehicles and *(b)* carriages are expected to be delivered in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) the Control Period 4 (2009-14), broken down by *(A)* (1) manufacturer and (2) franchise on which they are expected to operate and *(B)* (x) orders already in place and (y) future planned orders. [131793]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is too early to comment on the deployment, value and orders of the additional rolling stock.

The deployment of new rolling stock will be agreed with the industry following the publication of the High Level Output Specification and the long-term rail strategy this summer.

The rail industry will respond to the HLOS in October 2007 with proposals for delivering the sought extra capacity.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail vehicles and carriages *(a)* on order and *(b)* expected up to 2014 will be (i) replacement vehicles for existing rolling stock and (ii) additional rolling stock which will add to the total potential loading capacity of the rail network. [131794]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is too early to predict how many of the existing fleet of approximately 11,400 rail carriages will be replaced by 2014. I can, however, re-iterate the Government intention to commit to contracting with train operators for 1,000 additional carriages by 2014. This will form part of the capacity sought in the rail High Level Output Specification to be published in July and will be in addition to any carriage replacements.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras there were in each police authority area in 1997. [131795]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not hold this information, but does have the information for the areas covered by the Safety Camera Partnerships. The following table shows the number of fixed and mobile camera sites that are recorded as having been established in 1997.

	Number
Avon and Somerset	74
Bedfordshire	9
Cambridgeshire	8
Cheshire	8
Cleveland	1
Derbyshire	18
Devon and Cornwall	22
Dorset	29
Essex	18
Gloucestershire	21
Greater Manchester	38
Hampshire	1
Hertfordshire	11
Kent and Medway	12
Lancashire	29
Leicestershire	6
London	182
Mid and South Wales	2
Norfolk	4
Northumbria	22
Nottinghamshire	2
South Yorkshire	24

	Number
Staffordshire	41
Surrey	11
Sussex	13
Thames Valley	185
West Mids	24
Wiltshire	4

The National Safety Camera Programme ceased on the 31 March and the response represents data held as at that date. Future operation and deployment of safety cameras will be under the control of local partnerships, which will be better able to supply up-to-date information.

Walking: Pupils

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to extend Walking to School initiatives. [131566]

Gillian Merron: The Government are funding over 3,000 schools to increase walking to school: 1,903 schools to set up and sustain a walking bus and 1,328 to set up and sustain an alternative walking initiative, following my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Transport's announcement of 22 November 2006. More than one in six primary schools in England chose to apply and were eligible for the grant. The House and schools were informed of the allocations for 2007-08 on 26 March.

The successful schools will be eligible for further grants in 2008-09 and 2009-10 if they deliver the modal shift from car to walking that their head teachers promised and they have a reasonable expectation that this will continue.

Wolverton Station: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date the grant of £400,000 for the upgrade of Wolverton station must be spent. [132323]

Mr. Tom Harris: The grant, provided through the Community Infrastructure Fund, must be used by 31 March 2008.

TREASURY

Crossrail Line: Finance

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he expects to take a decision on the funding of Crossrail as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review. [125761]

Ed Balls: Crossrail funding and financing issues will be considered further in the context of Sir Michael Lyons' recommendations and wider spending pressures and priorities. However, the affordability challenge represented by the scheme remains significant.

Departments: Secondment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which NHS trusts his Department received secondees in each of the last five years. [131341]

Mr. Timms: The Sunderland teaching primary care trust seconded an employee to the Treasury during 2006. No other NHS trusts have seconded an employee to the Treasury in the last five years.

EC Budget

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which EU budget items allow spending on information campaigns targeted at journalists. [130652]

Ed Balls: The information published by the Commission does not detail for all EC budget lines whether these include spending on information campaigns targeted at journalists.

Chapter 16 02 of the 2007 EC budget entitled 'Communication and Media' does allow spending on communication with the media. This chapter is made up of budget lines 16 02 02 (Multimedia Actions), 16 02 03 (Information for the Media) and 16 02 04 (Operation of Radio and Television Studios and Audiovisual Equipment).

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by the EU on special annual events (budget item 15 06 06) in each of the last five years; what the money was spent on; and if he will make a statement. [130654]

Ed Balls: The information published by the European Commission on budget line 15 06 06 details the outturn on special annual events in 2005, 2004, 2003 and 2002. In 2005 the outturn of payment appropriations was €2,900,000, in 2004 it was €1,725,000 and in 2003 €3,729,325.18. There was a nil outturn for payment appropriations under this line in 2002. Outturn figures are not yet available for this line for 2006, but commitment appropriations were set at €5,500,00 and payment appropriations at €5,000,000.

These appropriations were designed to support special annual events. These have included, inter alia: the European Year of Mobility for Workers; the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome; the European Union campaign for democracy; the 15th Mediterranean Games and the 25th Anniversary of the Solidarity movement in Poland.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by the EU on European Political Foundations (budget item 15 06 07); what the money was spent on; and if he will make a statement. [130655]

Ed Balls: This budget line is new in the 2007 EC Budget. Commitment and payment appropriations were set at €1,000,000. These appropriations are planned to cover the cost of activities carried out by European political foundations such as: observing, analysing and contributing to the debate on European public policy issues; European seminars, conferences

and studies on these issues among stakeholders; and creating a European framework to facilitate collaboration between political foundations and academics.

EuroGlobe Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* objectives and *(b)* costs are of the EuroGlobe programme. [130640]

Ed Balls: EuroGlobe is an initiative of the European Parliament. This pilot project aims to provide a European public space fostering debate about: Europe and European culture; and political participation and learning. Both commitment and payment appropriations for the EuroGlobe project were set at €1,500,000 in the 2007 EC budget.

European Communities Interinstitutional Centre

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* assets and *(b)* costs to the taxpayer are of the European Communities Interinstitutional Centre at Overijse; how many people use it; what facilities it has; and if he will make a statement. [130669]

Ed Balls: The European Communities Interinstitutional Centre at Overijse does not have a budget line in the 2007 EC Budget and its exact cost is therefore not detailed in the 2007 EC Budget document. The budget of the centre is met by the Commission's general administration budget. The Government do not hold details of the centre's assets, the number of the people who use the centre, or information on the centre's facilities.

European Union: Citizenship

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* objectives and *(b)* costs are of the EU pilot project to promote active European citizenship; and if he will make a statement. [130653]

Ed Balls: No appropriations have been entered into the budget line 15 06 01 for the 'pilot project in favour of citizenship' in the 2007 EC Budget. Its budget was set at €500 000 for both commitment and payment appropriations in the 2006 EC budget. The objective of this pilot project was to prepare the launch of the new 'Citizens for Europe' programme, starting from 2007, through which the Commission aims to reduce the gap it perceives between citizens and the EU.

Local Government Finance Funding Changes Independent Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total cost was of the Lyons Review on local government finance. [131586]

John Healey: The Lyons Inquiry is estimated to cost about £1.76 million. In addition, £464,637 of funding has been provided by the Government for research commissioned by the Inquiry.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1319W, on parliamentary questions, on how many occasions this advice has been given in the last 12 months. [131368]

John Healey: The Treasury provides guidance to Departments as and when the need arises. Comprehensive records are not maintained of the number of occasions that advice is given.

PRINCE Programmes

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the purpose is of the PRINCE—Role of the European Union in the World programme; what its target audience is; what activities occur in the UK under the programme; whether public relations consultants are employed under the programme; what input his Department has into the programme; and if he will make a statement. [130635]

Ed Balls: The budget line 'PRINCE—Role of the European Union in the World' funds information and communication activities directed towards the citizens of the EU and European Neighbourhood Policy countries. Its aim is to explain the EU's external actions activity to citizens.

There have been no activities conducted in the UK under this budget line and HM Treasury has no input into this programme. DG RELEX has employed external contractors to help with the logistics and organisation of its seminars, visits to third states, and in developing publications and its website.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the objectives are of the PRINCE—Information and Communication Strategy (EU budget item, code 22 04 01); what its target audience is; what activities occur in the UK under the programme; whether public relations consultants are employed by the programme; what input his Department has to the programme; and if he will make a statement. [130636]

Ed Balls: PRINCE—Information and Communication Strategy (budget line 22 04 01) is a European Commission programme which funds information and communication activities on priority EU policies. The aim of the programme is to facilitate an effective dialogue on enlargement between European citizens and the EU institutions. Target audiences include the general public, youth groups, the media, opinion leaders and rural populations.

HM Treasury has no input into this programme. We understand that the Commission has funded several seminars in the UK. HM Treasury does not hold information on public relations consultants employed by the Commission in support of the aforementioned activities.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the UK is taking under the EU *(a)* PRINCE-Euro and *(b)* PRINCE programmes; and if he will make a statement. [130659]

Ed Balls: PRINCE is made up of a number of budget lines which include: Euro—PRINCE; PRINCE—Area of Freedom, Security and Justice; PRINCE—Information and Communication Strategy; and PRINCE—Role of the European Union in the World.

PRINCE—Euro is a European Commission information programme aimed at informing European citizens of matters relating to the introduction of the euro. The UK Government policy is to join the euro if Government, Parliament and the people, in a referendum, all agreed that it would be the right thing to do. In advance of any such decision, the UK is not undertaking any communication activities funded by this programme.

Public Expenditure: NHS

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last discussed the NHS budget with the Secretary of State for Health and the chief executive of the national health service. [130599]

Mr. Timms: The Chancellor of the Exchequer regularly meets with the Secretary of State for Health to discuss a range of issues.

Small Businesses: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of the Budget on small businesses in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [130954]

John Healey: The latest published information[1] shows that in 2005 there were around 115,000 small businesses in Northern Ireland. The small business tax reforms announced at the Budget will reduce the differential between incorporated and unincorporated small businesses and refocus investment incentives. The self-employed will also be impacted by the announced changes to the personal tax system, including a reduction of the basic rate of income tax to 20p.

Any small business in Northern Ireland that invests will benefit from the introduction of the new Annual Investment Allowance, which allows 100 per cent. of capital expenditure up to £50,000 to be offset against the business's tax liability.

In addition, the Budget announced a new Northern Ireland innovation fund for jobs and industry to be available to the restored Northern Ireland Executive.

[1] Small Business Service data

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost of processing Child Support Agency cases *(a)* electronically and *(b)* clerically was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [122883]

Mr. Plaskitt: Unfortunately the information is not available in the format that you have requested.

Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases have been referred to debt collection agencies by the Child Support Agency in the last 12 months; how many of these resulted in the successful collection of the debt; and if he will make a statement. [118463]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 April 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the secretary of state promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases have been referred to debt collection agencies by the Child Support Agency in the last 12 months; how many of these resulted in the successful collection of the debt; and if he will make a statement. [118463]

The Agency signed contracts with two debt collection agencies on 7th July 2006 and began transferring cases to these agencies in August 2006. By the end of February 2007 almost 24,000 cases had been transferred to these agencies and some or all of the debt had been collected in 3,895 of these cases.

The total amount collected by the debt collection agencies by the end of February 2007 was around £1.1 million. A letter sent by the Agency to inform clients that their debt is to be transferred to the external debt collection agencies had also resulted in an additional £795,000 collected by the Agency by the end of February 2007.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his letter of 3 October 2006 to the hon. Member for Totnes, reference PO5(4)10535/99, what progress he has made in his consideration of the current rules that allow the Child Support Agency to ignore the earnings of members of the Territorial Army. [128195]

Mr. Plaskitt: My officials continue to look at this matter and are considering whether it is appropriate to make suitable amendments to existing Child Support legislation. All matters in relation to maintenance assessments, including the scope for further simplification, are being reconsidered as part of the consultation on the White Paper, "A New System of Child Maintenance". The period of formal consultation ended on 13 March and we are currently analysing the responses received.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what powers the Child Support Agency has to pursue a non-resident parent who moves overseas to *(a)* an EU state and *(b)* a non-EU state. [128342]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 April 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what powers the Child Support Agency has to pursue a non-resident parent who moves overseas to (a) an EU state and (b) a non-EU state.

The Child Support Agency retains the power to pursue a non-resident parent who moves overseas, only where the non-resident is regarded to be habitually resident in the UK. The criteria for establishing Child Support jurisdiction when a non-resident parent leaves the United Kingdom is described at Section 44 of the Child Support Act. There is no distinction made between an EU state and a non-EU state.

There are certain cases where the nature of employment will bring the non-resident parent under the jurisdiction of the Child Support Agency, for example those employed in the Civil Service or a member of the naval, military or air forces. The Agency may also have jurisdiction where a non-resident parent is employed by a company that is prescribed in Child Support (Maintenance Arrangement and Jurisdiction Regulations) 1992, Regulation 7A(2).

If the non-resident parent is not regarded as habitually resident in the UK, then the Agency has no power to pursue. However the courts may be able to help the parent with care in obtaining ongoing child support maintenance, whether there is already a court order or not. The Department for Constitutional Affairs in the UK is responsible for the administration of reciprocal enforcement arrangements with more than 100 countries and territories.

Once an application is sent to the foreign authorities it will be dealt with according to laws and procedures of that country. The UK has no control over how long that process will take but will periodically check on the progress of a case with the foreign authorities.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases the Child Support Agency has where *(a)* the non-resident parent (NRP) lives in Scotland and the parent with care (PWC) lives in England and *(b)* the NRP lives in England and the PWC lives in Scotland. [128343]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 17 April 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases the Child Support Agency has where (a) the non-residential parent (NRP) lives in Scotland and the parent with care (PWC) lives in England and (b) the NRP lives in England and the PWC lives in Scotland.

Information regarding the region of residence of NRPs and PWCs in cases with an assessment or calculation is published in table 25 of the December 2006 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the internet via the following link: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_dec06.asp.

However, this is not a complete picture because it does not include cases without an assessment or calculation. Information on both types of cases is included in the following table.

It should be noted that we do not have the information requested for some cases:

Those cases without an assessment on the old computer system—around 29,000 cases.

Cases without an assessment on the new computer system where the region of residence for the PWC, the NRP or both is not yet known—around 38,200 cases.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Country of residence of non-resident parents and parents with care, December 2006

Number of cases where	*With an assessment or calculation*	*Without an assessment calculation*	*Total*
NRP lives in Scotland, PWC lives in England	11,800	1,100	12,900
NRP lives in England, PWC lives in Scotland	13,900	1,500	15,400

Notes:

1. New-scheme cases being processed clerically are excluded from this analysis.
2. Cases have been allocated to government office regions through matching the postcode for a residential against the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.
3. This table relates to cases. Therefore, individuals included in more than one case are included multiple times.
4. In December 2006 there were around 67,200 cases where we do not have information on the region of residence. This was made up of:

29,000 cases on the old computer system that did not have an assessment or calculation;

38,200 cases on the new computer system which had either not yet reached the point in the process at which details on the region of residence of the parent with care could be identified, or where the region of residence for one or both of the NRP and PWC was unknown.

5. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.

New Deal Schemes: Self-employed

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of customers who will participate in the new deal self-employment programme in 2007-08; and how many did so in each of the previous three years. [128665]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to him on 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1184-86.

Pensioners

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will put in place a national strategy for older people. [130501]

James Purnell: The national strategy for older people and an ageing society: Opportunity Age, Meeting the challenges of ageing in the 21st century was launched in March 2005. It focuses on promoting independence and well-being in later life, extending opportunities to work in later life, supporting healthy active ageing in our communities and giving older people more choice and independence in how they use the services at their disposal. The strategy celebrates the fact that people are living longer lives and highlights the valuable and increasing contribution that older people make to our society.

Already, much has been achieved: We have made major reforms of policies (including the biggest package of reform on pensions since the Second World War); started modernising services around the needs of the customer, including through a wide range of pilot

programmes such as Link-Age Plus, Individual Budgets, and PoPPs. We have significantly increased spending for older people (on pensions and benefits, health, care, free bus travel, winter warmth).

Incomes of pensioners have increased broadly in line with those in work; and for the first time ever in a period of sustained economic growth, pensioners are now no more likely to be living in poverty than people of working age. Older people's well-being has improved across a broad range of indicators.

The strategy also addresses the needs of the baby boomer generation by helping them make the right choices to ensure retirement is a time of opportunity: by tackling age discrimination; ending the cliff edge from work into retirement; and helping them to balance work and caring responsibilities.

Pensions

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria will be used to ensure that funds invested by the proposed Delivery Authority for the personal accounts scheme will be invested in the best interests of its members. [130783]

James Purnell: The personal accounts Delivery Authority will not operate the personal accounts scheme and, as such, will not invest members' contributions. The Delivery Authority's role will be to set up personal accounts prior to any members joining the scheme.

As with existing defined contribution occupational pension schemes, trustees will be responsible for the investment of members' contributions in accordance with existing legislation, including the requirement to act in the members' best interests.

Policy relating to investment choices for personal accounts is under development and will be presented in the second Pensions Bill currently planned for introduction later this year.

Pensions: Regulation

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration was given to the potential effect of additional funds to be invested in financial markets during the production of the regulatory impact assessment for the Pensions Bill. [130774]

James Purnell: The Pensions Bill does not introduce measures which will directly lead to additional funds being invested in the financial markets. Because of this the Pensions Bill regulatory impact assessment does not specifically consider the effect of increased investment.

The Government will publish a further regulatory impact assessment looking at personal accounts when the second Pensions Bill is published.

Vocational Training: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* support, *(b)* assistance and *(c)* re-training opportunities are available to people in Hartlepool who live in (i) neighbourhood renewal areas and (ii) non-neighbourhood renewal areas for (A) improving skills in manufacturing and (B) other areas. [129418]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Jobcentre Plus in conjunction with its partner organisations locally provides a wide range of support, assistance and re-training opportunities across the whole of Hartlepool. This includes basic skills training, mentoring and occupational training.

In addition some wards in Hartlepool have recently been given Deprived Area Fund (DAF) status and these areas match with neighbourhood renewal areas. DAF will give the Tees Valley District Manager more flexibility to deal with local employability issues by enabling the implementation of tailored support or provision to suit local circumstances.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 18 April 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Age: Discrimination

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to bring forward legislation to give older people the same protection against discrimination as is available to other groups; and if she will make a statement. [126246]

Mr. Woolas: The Government are considering whether there is a case for introducing legislation to prohibit harmful age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services as part of the Discrimination Law Review.

Community Development: Public Participation

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the level of interaction between New Deal for Communities boards and residents; and if she will make a statement. [131645]

Mr. Woolas: NDCs are governed by partnership boards of which, on average, 59 per cent. of members are local residents.

We also monitor the engagement of local people in the wider activities of the NDC through a National Evaluation of the programme. The last household survey, undertaken in 2006, showed that more than a fifth of NDC residents were engaged in NDC activities.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency drafted or produced a privacy impact assessment for the council tax revaluation. [129680]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 414W and 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 783W.

Housing: Valuation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate *(a)* the average value of all homes valued in excess of £1 million in the UK and *(b)* how many homes in the UK are valued in excess of £1 million. [131116]

Mr. Woolas: Information in the form requested is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

New Deal for Communities

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the expenditure on new deal for communities programmes for each council was in each of the last five years. [131684]

Mr. Woolas: New deal for communities (NDC) provides grants to local authorities with NDC Partnerships for them to spend on regenerating their neighbourhoods. NDC Partnerships are made up of local people and residents working in partnership with people from local agencies such as the local authority.

NDC grant is paid through an accountable body (usually, but not always, the local authority) to the NDC Partnership to meet the costs incurred in delivering the NDC Partnerships delivery plan. The following table shows the NDC grant paid to each local authority in each of the last five years between 2002-03 and 2006-07, (The figure for 2006-07 is a forecast).

NDC is a 10 year programme and the figures only capture part of the full allocations to be paid to each partnership. These figures also exclude expenditure provided by partner organisations such as the police, primary care trusts and local authorities.

£ million

Local authority	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Birmingham[1]	3.553	8.021	10.396	10.997	15.055
Bradford	8.096	8.613	10.250	9.611	6.632
Brent	2.307	4.343	7.107	8.086	7.356
Brighton and Hove	6.121	7.672	8.695	7.225	1.121
Bristol	5.504	7.981	7.627	6.675	9.477
Coventry	1.231	5.050	6.976	7.300	8.577
Derby	3.386	7.056	6.938	7.151	6.747
Doncaster	2.915	3.481	5.444	4.580	5.977
Hackney	5.872	5.457	4.566	7.897	6.984
Hammersmith and Fulham	2.782	4.481	6.595	8.179	6.769
Haringey	4.540	8.789	6.855	9.162	6.402
Hartlepool	4.692	6.642	10.610	10.900	6.877
Islington	1.535	4.014	5.425	6.386	7.114
Kingston upon Hull	7.479	10.869	15.251	6.742	5.603
Knowsley	3.147	5.232	6.973	6.190	9.247
Lambeth	2.508	3.792	8.405	9.122	9.736
Leicester	4.104	8.338	11.826	6.663	6.347
Lewisham	2.815	4.143	4.829	7.546	6.372
Liverpool	5.135	5.962	8.316	8.510	8.127
Luton	6.180	3.389	4.594	5.656	6.079
Manchester	8.313	17.120	3.841	1.700	3.235
Middlesbrough	5.643	8.132	8.738	10.120	6.502
Newcastle upon Tyne	5.012	7.910	8.633	6.486	6.118
Newham	7.299	8.847	11.849	8.655	6.854
Norwich	8.209	6.797	6.731	5.000	2.424
Nottingham	6.779	4.688	7.293	8.983	7.739
Oldham	1.993	10.209	5.946	6.350	8.279
Plymouth	2.728	2.214	4.105	4.750	6.377

£ million

Local authority	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Rochdale	5.388	6.052	5.206	5.900	7.000
Salford	4.187	4.832	7.407	6.850	7.177
Sandwell	4.792	7.260	5.508	9.042	7.679
Sheffield	2.821	5.565	7.971	10.000	10.297
Southampton	1.677	3.831	4.401	5.947	8.227
Southwark	3.792	3.926	4.814	2.292	3.207
Sunderland	3.767	3.890	5.634	4.130	7.302
Tower Hamlets	5.318	6.865	5.583	5.279	9.221
Walsall	3.786	3.000	9.035	8.900	9.341
Wolverhampton	1.628	3.250	4.368	5.504	8.077
Total	167.034	237.713	274.741	270.466	275.301

[1] Birmingham has two NDCs (Kings Norton and Aston)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the New Deal for Communities programme in *(a)* Haringey, *(b)* Walsall and *(c)* Plymouth. [131685]

Mr. Woolas: All 39 New Deal for Communities Partnerships (NDC) are required to prepare an annual Delivery Plan which sets out the objectives and outcomes proposed by each NDC for the coming year. These plans are assessed and approved by the Government Office for the region.

For the reporting year 2005-06, Walsall was rated as an 'Excellent' performing NDC, while Haringey and Plymouth were both rated as 'Good'.

Parking: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many parking spaces per head of population there are in Central Milton Keynes *(a)* in 2007 and *(b)* planned for each of the next five years. [132056]

Mr. Woolas: The Local Transport Plan states that there are over 20,000 car parking spaces in Milton Keynes. It is our understanding from Milton Keynes council that *(a)* in 2007 there are 20,875 parking bays that are publicly accessible in central Milton Keynes; these include those on the public highway and in third party ownership and this works out at 0.09198 of a space per head of population. The Local Transport Plan does not contain the level of car parking over the next five years. The local council have indicated that number of parking spaces planned for the next five years *(b)* is projected at the 2007 level, but work is underway by council officers to develop a long term parking strategy for central Milton Keynes.

After a lengthy period of public consultation, the approved Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy for this growth area aims to encourage a shift towards more sustainable modes of travel in the future.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of annual parking revenue for the council in Milton Keynes *(a)* collected in each of the last five years and *(b)* projected for each of the next two years. [132057]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made *(a)* no estimate of annual parking revenue for the council at Milton Keynes collected in each of the last five years, or *(b)* projected for each of the next two years. This is because this is a locally determined matter for Milton Keynes council, whose statements of accounts for previous years and projected calculated position for the next two years are publicly available information from the local authority.

Travelling People

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs assessments *(a)* have been completed and *(b)* are outstanding. [131234]

Meg Munn: Information collected in March showed that accommodation needs assessments for Gypsies and Travellers were under way, or had been completed, in 90 per cent. of local authorities.

Workforce Efficiency Savings: Milton Keynes Council

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what workforce efficiency savings have been reported to her Department as agreed by Milton Keynes Council for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [132054]

Mr. Woolas: The Department has not yet received final information on councils' plans (including those of Milton Keynes council) for new efficiency gains in 2007-08; they are expected to be published later in the year.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Bible: Anniversaries

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if her Department will commemorate the 400th anniversary in 2011 of the publication of the King James version of the Bible. [132050]

Mr. Lammy: My Department currently has no plans in place to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the King James version of the Bible in 2011.

London Olympics

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects a final budget to be agreed for the 2012 Olympics. [105560]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to my statement to the House of 15 March 2007.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) pursuant to her oral statement of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 450-52, on the 2012 Olympics, if she will break down by area of planned expenditure the £3.1 billion for the building of the Olympic Park; [129383]

(2) if she will break down by area of planned expenditure the £1.7 billion for infrastructure and regeneration. [129384]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 23 March 2007]*: Further to my statement of 15 March 2007, I have set out in the following table a breakdown by area of the planned expenditure for the Olympic Park and infrastructure and regeneration.

Item	*Cost (£ million)*
Venues (inc IBC/MPC and legacy conversion)	1,063
Transport	794
Additional 1 per cent. inflation allowance, support for the Olympic village and insurance	386
Other, including Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) running costs and site security	838
ODA core costs of Olympics	3,081
Olympic regeneration	1,673
Including:	
Enabling works	
Landscaping	
Roads, bridges and tunnels	
Power lines undergrounding	
Utilities	
ODA programme contingency	500
ODA budget (net of tax)	5,254
Sports, including community sport participation, Paralympics and other non-ODA costs	388
Other provisions	
Provision for policing and wider security	600
Tax programme	836
Contingency (including tax)	2,247
Total	9,325

To provide more information at this time could jeopardise current and future commercial negotiations concerning venue and infrastructure contracts. However further information will be available later this year, when the ODA publishes its corporate plan.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assumptions were made of the total level of administrative costs accrued to the body charged with the construction of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in the *(a)* Arup report, *(b)* Olympic bid document, *(c)* PriceWaterhouseCoopers' Olympic Games Impact Study, *(d)* Faithful and Gould analysis of costs and *(e)* her evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on 21 November 2006; and if she will make a statement. [128402]

Tessa Jowell: Arup based the initial estimates of the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) administration costs on previous games and recommended a sum of £15.6 million at 2002 prices, excluding consultants. PWC advised that core costs of £15 million would be sufficient for the ODA, assuming that they were to be an organisation of the same size and responsibilities as an Urban Development Corporation, but advised that a fuller "bottom-up" analysis of costs was required. This was undertaken by KPMG in 2005. Faithful and Gould were not commissioned by my Department and we are not aware of any estimates they may have made.

Since winning the bid, the work my Department has done has calculated that, as the ODA's scope and functions will increase, the sums of money required for their administration must also increase.

In my response, published on the 26 March 2007, to the Select Committee's report I said the total cost of the ODA's programme delivery budget, would be £570 million. The increase in costs reflects the fact that the ODA was to undertake an increase in responsibilities, delivering not just the necessary venues for the games but the associated legacy and regeneration ambitions set by the Government. This sum represents around 10 per cent. of the total costs of the ODA Programme of £5,254 million, net of tax, and is consistent with industry norms for a project of this scale, complexity and concentration. Of this the combined staffing, accommodation and IT cost of ODA and the Delivery Partner, CLM, is £476 million. The balance of £94 million is to cover the establishment on the Olympic Park site of the necessary provision for up to 9,000 construction workers, including health and canteen facilities and transportation.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when body armour was first provided to Marine forces in Afghanistan for their current deployment; and how long the gap was between deployment and issuance of such armour. [128819]

Mr. Ingram: Since 2004 it has been departmental policy that all troops should be provided with Enhanced Combat Body Armour (ECBA) before they deploy to an operational Theatre, and so all members of 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines, who deployed to Afghanistan were issued with this equipment before deployment in autumn 2006.

In addition, Improved Performance Body Armour (Osprey), which has an enhanced fragmentation vest and larger plates, and Enhanced Personal Protective Equipment (Kestrel), which provides even greater protection have been provided to operational Theatres for use against specific threats and for specific roles. Delivery of Osprey to Afghanistan began in February 2006, and delivery of Kestrel in May 2006; all three types of body armour were available to the Royal Marines for the entirety of their operational tour.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of supplying dress uniforms to officers in the *(a)* Royal Navy, *(b)* Royal Air Force and *(c)* Army in the last year for which figures are available. [129361]

Mr. Ingram: Royal Navy and Royal Air Force dress uniforms are provided by a 'supply fit' contract which means units raise demands directly with the supplier to provide and fit uniforms at specific locations. Due to

the nature of this contract, it is not possible to provide information on how many dress uniforms were supplied as this information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. The approximate cost of the uniform is £135.00.

Army officers are given an outfit allowance, with which to purchase all their uniform requirements, and this varies from regiment to regiment. The majority of grants will be around £2,100.00 it is not possible to separate out the costs of dress uniforms from this.

Bombs

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the legal status of dumb cluster munitions. [131015]

Mr. Ingram: There is no treaty which specifically prohibits or restricts the use of cluster munitions; they are legal weapons when used in compliance with International Humanitarian Law.

War Pensions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many war pensions were awarded under each level of the Armed Forces Compensation scheme in each year since 2001. [131090]

Derek Twigg: War pensions are not awarded under the Armed Forces Compensation scheme which was introduced on 6 April 2005 and applies only to injuries and deaths caused on or after that date. War pensions are awarded under the Naval, Military and Air Forces, Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order in respect of injuries and deaths caused before 6 April 2005.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Expenditure

16. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to reduce significantly his Department's budget. [131489]

18. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to reduce his departmental expenditure in line with Whitehall efficiency savings targets. [131491]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) this morning.

Travel Budget

17. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the estimated budget of his Department for travel is in 2007-08. [131490]

The Deputy Prime Minister: All travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidance set out in the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers, and the Civil Service Management Code.

Since 1999, the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more.

The Government have also published on an annual basis the cost of all Ministers' visits overseas. Copies of the lists for previous years are available in the Library. Information for the financial year 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

Departmental Funding

19. **Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department has been allocated for each of the next three years. [131492]

20. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what funding has been allocated to his Department for each of the next three years. [131493]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My Department's Main Estimate for 2007-08 will be published along with those for other Departments. DPMO is participating in the comprehensive spending review in the same way as other Departments.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Households Below Average Income

4. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment she has made of the implications of the households below average income report for 2005-06 for social exclusion. [131497]

Hilary Armstrong: This Government have made significant progress in tackling child poverty. Since 1997 we have lifted 600,000 children out of relative poverty. Our drive to meet the challenges raised in the Households Below Average Income Report will be addressed by the recent Budget measures which are anticipated to lift a further 200,000 children out of poverty.

Social Exclusion

5. **Mr. Simon:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment her Department has made of the key risk factors associated with falling into social exclusion. [131498]

Mr. McFadden: While the Government have a strong record on reducing poverty and social exclusion, the Social Exclusion Action Plan, published in September 2006, identified a number of risks for a small proportion of households, which included: substance misuse, mental health problems, offending, being in care, teenage pregnancy and lack of basic skills. The Government also recognises that children in families with multiple problems often go on to experience poor outcomes in later life.

The Social Exclusion Task Force is taking forward a range of initiatives to address these risk factors.

6. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what responsibilities she has for promoting early intervention as a means of tackling social exclusion; and if she will make a statement. [131499]

Hilary Armstrong: The Social Exclusion Action Plan, published in September 2006, identified a number of guiding principles to inform the Government's approach to tackling social exclusion, including early intervention. The most significant area of current work that links strongly to this principle is the Nurse-Family Partnership pilots, which provide a structured and intensive home visiting programme by health visitors to disadvantaged mothers from pregnancy until the child is aged two.

Third Sector Funding

7. **Ann Coffey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans she has to provide micro-grants for small voluntary and community organisations. [131500]

Edward Miliband: In response to the largest ever consultation with the third sector, the Chancellor announced in the Budget a new £80 million fund, spread over four years, to provide core funding to grass-roots community organisations. The fund reflects the vital contribution of small community groups to our society and neighbourhoods.

Charities: Income Tax Cut

8. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions she has had with: the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effect on charities of the 2 per cent. cut in the basic rate of income tax from April 2008. [131501]

Edward Miliband: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and I have discussed the impact of the cut in the basic rate of income tax on gift aid and the need to build on the progress made since 1997 which has led to an increase in the resources going to charities through gift aid from £134 million to £750 million.

The Charities Aid Foundation estimate that £700 million is potentially available from more tax effective giving and we aim to come forward with measures at the time of the pre-Budget report, prior to the introduction of the basic rate cut next year.

Vulnerable Parents

9. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Government are taking to support vulnerable parents in the first two years of a child's life. [131502]

Hilary Armstrong: In addition to the universal services provided by health visitors and midwives, the Government have invested over £21 billion on early years and child care services since 1997, with 1,250 Sure Start Children's Centres already in operation. Moreover, on 2 April 10 health-led parenting pilots went live across England, based on the extremely successful Nurse-Family Partnership scheme. These pilots will provide structured and intensive home visiting to disadvantaged mothers from early pregnancy until the child is aged two.

Community Assets Ownership

10. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps she is taking to increase community ownership of public assets. [131503]

Edward Miliband: The Government are committed to expanding the opportunities for communities to manage or own public assets. On 30 March I announced that the Big Lottery Fund will manage the £30 million Community Assets Fund on behalf of the Government. This new fund will seek to improve the ability of local community organisations to take on the management or ownership of local authority assets in England, by offering capital to refurbish them.

The Office of the Third Sector is now consulting on aspects of how the fund will work, to ensure that it will provide long-term benefits for local communities.

Antisocial Behaviour: Families

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate she has made of the cost of (a) supporting a problem family in the community and (b) early intervention support for such a family. [131170]

Mr. McFadden: There is no archetypal 'problem family'. We are committed to engaging with families who are excluded because they have multiple problems and the costs associated with supporting a family with multiple problems vary according to the number and type of services being used. Recent HMT analysis of published research suggests that a family suffering from five problems (depression, alcohol misuse, domestic violence, short periods of homelessness and being involved in criminality) are estimated to create costs of between £55,000 to £115,000 per year. Illustrative estimates produced by the Social Exclusion Task Force suggest that a family with parental drug problems and experience of prison, care services and unemployment may use services costing around £117,000 per year.

Early intervention is widely acknowledged as a cost effective approach to supporting families at risk of or experiencing multiple problems. Currently, the most robust assessments of the costs and benefits of early intervention have come from international research. For example, US evaluation of the Nurse Family Partnership model demonstrates that high-quality social support alongside antenatal clinical care for the most at risk families from pregnancy to the age of two has a sustained impact on a wide range of longer term outcomes. Independent evaluations show a per family cost of around US$8,000 over two and a half years which accrues downstream savings equivalent to four times the cost of the actual programme for the most at risk families.

To help build the evidence base on the costs and benefits of early intervention in the UK, the Government are developing and rigorously evaluating a programme based upon the Nurse Family Partnership in 10 areas across England. This programme will go live across 10 areas in April. Furthermore, the Social Exclusion Task Force is

leading work on analysis of downstream costs associated with social exclusion and savings associated with early intervention.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by her Department. [132209]

Hilary Armstrong: All Cabinet Office expenditure on official hospitality including alcohol is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Government Accounting" and the "Treasury" handbook on "Regularity and Propriety", copies of which are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Education Maintenance Allowances

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost was of education maintenance allowances in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what the expected cost is in 2007-08. [131576]

Phil Hope: Expenditure on education maintenance allowance in the years requested is shown in the following table.

	Full costs (£ million)
Actual 2005-06	407
Forecast[1] 2006-07	525
Expected cost 2007-08	577

[1] Final end of year figures on the EMA payments for 2006-07 will not be available until 25 April 2007

Higher Education: Gender

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what studies have been commissioned by his Department on the gender gap in university applications; and if he will make a statement. [132155]

Bill Rammell: The Department has not commissioned any research to look at the gender gap in university applications. Figures from UCAS show that there is a higher number of women applying overall to higher education compared to men—in 2006, of all English domiciled applicants who applied to English HEIs, 55.4 per cent. were female (Source: http://www.ucas.ac.uk/figures/ucasdata/sex/index.html).

There are differences between men and women in terms of subjects applied for. More men apply for courses in: Engineering; Mathematical and Computer Science; Technologies; Architecture, Building and Planning; and Physical Science. More women apply for courses in: Education; Medicine; Veterinary Science; Agriculture and Related subjects; European languages; Literature and related subjects; Linguistics; Classics; and Combined Arts.

We do not clearly know the reasons for the differences in the numbers and patterns of applications between men and women; more broadly prior attainment has been seen as the most significant determinant of HE participation. The Department is, therefore, undertaking internal analysis to look at the gender gap in higher education participation and how it has changed over time.

Higher Education: Practical Training

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of hours of practical skills based training available in degree courses in higher education in each year between 1996 and 2006. [132095]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not collected or held centrally. Collecting such information would incur disproportionate costs and be overly bureaucratic.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many students were studying for a first degree at UK universities in each of the last five years; [132136]

(2) how many *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* non-UK EU citizens and *(c)* students from countries outside the EU were studying for their first degree in UK universities in each of the last five years. [132157]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table.

Students[1] on first degree courses at UK higher education institution[2] 2001/02 to 2005/06

	Students from[3]			
Academic year	*UK*	*Other EU countries[4]*	*Non EU countries*	*Total*
2001/02	951,800	42,835	54,195	1,048,830
2002/03	985,865	41,025	63,890	1,092,780
2003/04	1,013,710	39,260	75,395	1,128,365
2004/05	1,029,095	44,040	79,510	1,152,645
2005/06	1,061,070	48,100	82,105	1,191,270

[1] Figures are based on HESA's Standard Registration Population, which counts the number of students enrolled throughout the year. Includes students on full-time and part-time courses.
[2] Excludes students at the Open University (OU). Up to 2002/03, the OU did not distinguish students on first degree courses from those on other undergraduate courses. The numbers of OU students on first degree courses since then was 82,415 in 2003/04, 85,015 in 2004/05 and 87,585 in 2005/06.
[3] Based on the student's normal country of domicile.
[4] From 2004/05, includes students from the accession countries.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5, so components may not sum to totals

Learndirect

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many individuals *(a)* have been helped to find courses by learndirect advice services and *(b)* gained qualifications with the help of learndirect. [131158]

Phil Hope: Between February 1998 and February 2007 more than 8.5 million calls were made to the learndirect advice line. The learndirect website hosted more than 40 million information and advice sessions.

Users of this service often make more than one call and use the website more than once. An estimated 7 million people have called the learndirect advice line and more than half go on to do a course in the following six months.

The learndirect advice guidance trial, providing free in-depth careers guidance on the telephone, was launched in January 2007. This service provides people with up to three advice sessions over a month-long period. By February 2007 more than 90,000 people had used the learndirect guidance trial.

Learndirect provision is now the size of about 10 FE colleges, with more than 300,000 learners a year. In the academic year 2005-06, learndirect delivered a quarter of the Learning and Skills Council's target for adult Skills for Life qualifications in England.

Between April 2003 and February 2007, more than 125,000 people have achieved their first Skills for Life (literacy or numeracy) qualification through learndirect. Between August 2005 and February 2007, nearly 3,000 learners have achieved a Level 2 National Vocational Qualification through learndirect. In addition, learndirect 'Learning through Work' has enrolled more than 2,500 students. Of these, more than 600 have gained work-based qualifications from level 3 up to level 8, including foundation degrees, honours degrees, and masters.

Students: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of Higher Education Funding Council for England-funded students are on first full Level 4 degrees. [131580]

Bill Rammell: In full-time equivalent terms, 78 per cent. of all HEFCE funded activity in 2005-06 was attributable to students aiming for a first level 4 degree (i.e. those who entered a first degree or foundation degree without a prior qualification at level 4 degree or above).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to call for an earlier disclosure of farm payments made by the EU prior to the scheduled date of 2009. [130540]

Barry Gardiner: Details of payments made to beneficiaries of common agricultural policy funding in England are already publicly available. The Government welcome the European Commission's proposals to extend this principle across the EU, but will wish to consider the detailed implementation requirements carefully, including the administrative burdens on paying agencies.

Asbestos

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when guidance on soil values for asbestos is expected to be published. [131206]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The Environment Agency (EA) is working closely with the Health and Safety Laboratory on a number of work streams aimed at overcoming some of the scientific and technical problems associated with assessing the risk to human health posed by asbestos in soils. Work is also ongoing to develop an appropriate health criteria value for asbestos in soils. The end product will be detailed qualitative and quantitative technical guidance which can be used in assessing individual sites against the definition of "contaminated land" established under part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The EA expects to have the material ready for publication by the end of 2007, subject to the outcome of current proposals for other improvements to existing technical guidance in the contaminated land field.

Azurlox

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why a certificate is needed to purchase Azurlox. [131711]

Ian Pearson: The Control of Pesticide Regulations 1986 requires anyone who sells, supplies or uses a pesticide to have a certificate of competence. There is no obligation for a user to be in possession of a certificate of competence in order to purchase a pesticide product. If a supplier chooses not to sell a pesticide to a person who cannot prove competence to use that product this is entirely at their discretion.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the UK's carbon emissions were in 2005; and what percentage change they represented from the level in 1990. [131410]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: Total net carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions in 2005 were reported in the 2005 UK climate change sustainable development indicator and greenhouse gas emissions final figures on 29 January 2007. These data show that CO_2 emissions were 554.2 million tonnes, a decrease of 6.4 per cent. between 1990 and 2005.

Eaga Partnership: Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what rating system the Eaga Partnership uses for inspection of the work of firms undertaking work on the Warm Front scheme; and what score was given to each installer on the scheme following the most recent inspection. [127848]

Ian Pearson: The Warm Front scheme manager, Eaga plc, inspects work carried out under the scheme against an established technical specification for each measure installed. These technical specifications are regularly reviewed by Eaga plc and DEFRA, and updated in line with amendments to legislation and best practice.

In the event that any measure installed under the Warm Front scheme fails an inspection, Eaga plc have robust processes in place for the identification and completion of all required remedial work by the initial contractor. A proportion of these works are then re-inspected to ensure full compliance.

Any installer whose performance under the scheme falls below agreed standards has their work allocation reduced or suspended until such a time that they can demonstrate improvement to the required standard.

Eggs

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition his Department uses of free-range eggs; and if he will make a statement. [131322]

Barry Gardiner: "Free range", on an egg or poultry meat product, is a special marketing term (SMT) indicating that the product has been produced in compliance with the criteria set-out in the respective marketing regulations.

All EU requirements for free range systems can be found in Council Directive 1999/74/EC, Commission Regulation 2295/2003/EC, as amended by Commission Regulation 1515/2004/EC, and the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance is provided to the owners of mobile homes to improve their energy efficiency. [131055]

Ian Pearson: Details of grants and offers for energy efficiency measures are available, by postcode, on the Energy Saving Trust website, which is funded by my Department to promote and support energy efficiency in the household sector. The trust's Innovation Programme has included two projects relating to the use of energy efficiency measures in mobile homes.

All households eligible under the Government's Warm Front scheme, regardless of property type, are entitled to a package of measures from the full range available under the scheme. These include, for example, central heating, the repair or replacement of an existing heating system, wall or storage heaters and insulation measures including hot water tank jackets, cavity wall, loft insulation and draught-proofing.

As with all properties, the exact package of measures provided is dependent upon a range of factors. These include property size and construction, utility supply, existing heating and insulation measures and customer preference, with the most suitable combination of measures being recommended at assessment.

Warm Front is constantly evaluating the range of measures it provides. In particular, a number of low carbon alternative technologies are under consideration for inclusion under the scheme. Several of these technologies will be applicable to mobile homes and will enhance the assistance provided to 'hard to treat' properties.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what standards have been set for local emissions of oxides of nitrogen in the *(a)* UK and *(b)* European Union; and how many UK (i) sites and (ii) airport sites exceed those standards. [131728]

Ian Pearson: There are controls on both emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) in ambient air, through European legislation.

The National Emissions Ceiling Directive 2001/81/EC (NECD) sets ceilings for each member state for emissions of NOx, ammonia (NH3), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These four pollutants are primarily responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone. The ceilings must be met by 2010.

Since 1970, there has been a reduction in total NOx emissions of 47 per cent. The main contributors to UK NOx emissions currently are the transport, power generation and industry sectors. The total NOx emission for the UK in 2004 was 1,621 kilotonnes (kt).

The UK ceiling for NOx under the NECD is set at 1167kt. The UK expects to meet the obligations for complying with the NECD ceilings in 2010.

In terms of ambient concentrations, at a national level there are two provisional Air Quality Strategy Objectives for NO_2 for the protection of human health: (i) a one-hour mean concentration of 200 micrograms per metre cubed (micro $g.m^{-3}$) not to be exceeded more than 18 times per year and (ii) an annual mean concentration of 40 micro $g.m^{-3}$. The target date for both of these to be achieved was 31 December 2005. There are two EU air quality Limit Values for NO_2 for the protection of human health: (a) a one-hour mean concentration of 200micro $g.m^{-3}$ cubed not to be exceeded more than 18 times per year and (b) an annual mean concentration of 40 micro $g.m^{-3}$. The target date for both of these to be achieved is 1 January 2010. There is a further EU air quality limit value for NOx for the protection of vegetation and ecosystems set at 30micro $g.m^{-3}$ to be met by 19 July 2001.

In 2006, two out of 110 operational monitoring sites measured exceedences of the one-hour mean EU Limit Value and Air Quality Strategy objectives. These sites were in London and both were within five metres of roads. The national monitoring network has two sites close to airports: London Harlington and Manchester South. In 2006, there were two exceedences of the one-hour mean nitrogen dioxide concentration of 200micro $g.m^{-3}$ at London Harlington (one kilometre (km) from Heathrow airport perimeter road), and none at Manchester South (2.9 km from Manchester airport).

Also in 2006, 24 out of 110 operational monitoring sites measured exceedences of the annual mean EU

Limit Value and Air Quality Strategy objectives. Of these, 14 were in London and the majority were within 10 metres of roads. The 2006 annual mean at London Harlington was 37micro $g.m^{-3}$ and at Manchester South it was 16micro $g.m^{-3}$.

Data and information from the national air quality monitoring networks are freely available from the National Air Quality Information Archive at:

www.airquality.co.uk

Pesticides

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of the documents on which the decision to prohibit the use of isoproturon and trifluralin was based; and what consultation the Pesticides Safety Directorate carried out on this matter. [130538]

Ian Pearson: Isoproturon and trifluralin have been considered as part of a European Community (EC) review of the safety of active substances used in agricultural pesticides under Council Directive 91/414/EEC.

Isoproturon was approved under the review in 2001, on condition that member states ensure the adequate protection of aquatic organisms when authorising products which contain it. Following an evaluation of data presented by applicants for such products in the UK, the Pesticides Safety Directorate identified an unacceptable risk to aquatic life. The independent Advisory Committee on Pesticides concluded that this risk could not be satisfactorily managed and all authorised uses of isoproturon in the UK should therefore be withdrawn. I have arranged for the draft minutes of the Committee's 323rd meeting to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

A decision was taken, in March 2007, not to approve trifluralin under the review, in particular because of concerns about its toxicity to aquatic organisms, its high persistence in soil, and its potential for long-range transport in air. All authorised uses of trifluralin in the EC will therefore be withdrawn. I have arranged for a summary of the conclusions of the European Food Safety Authority, on which this decision was based, to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

The Pesticides Safety Directorate does not consult on individual decisions made under the review. Decisions about safety are determined on the basis of scientific data presented by applicants and evaluated to agreed European standards. Applicants may submit further applications supported by additional data if they believe they can demonstrate that there are no unacceptable risks to the environment.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the British Government received a list containing the names of Afghan politicians and Government officials alleged to be involved in the heroin trade from a senior Afghan minister in late 2005; and if she will make a statement. [130318]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* We can find no evidence that such a list has been received by the Government.

Holidays Abroad: Death

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British holidaymakers died abroad in 2006. [132022]

Dr. Howells: In the financial year (FY) 2005-06, there were 4,071 deaths abroad of British nationals requiring action by our consular staff. This figure is derived from our Consular Annual Return (CAR) and the CAR does not provide a breakdown of their status, i.e. visitor or resident. Details for FY 2005-06 are provided as the information from the CAR is captured by FY and not calendar year.

Sudan: War Crimes

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications for British foreign policy of the International Criminal Court's (ICC) indictment of Ahmad Muhammad Ali-Al-Rahman (Ali Kushayb), Janjaweed militia leader, for alleged crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Darfur in 2003 and 2004; and whether she plans further to support the work of the ICC in seeking accountability for crimes committed in Darfur. [132026]

Dr. Howells: On 27 February, the International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor asked the court's pre-trial chamber to issue summonses for Kushayb and another individual as a result of investigations into the situation in Darfur. It is a positive sign that the ICC investigation has reached this point. It is now for the ICC judges to decide whether to approve the prosecutor's request.

The ICC will continue to have our full support for its activities, both in Darfur and elsewhere. It must also have the full and unconditional co-operation of the Government of Sudan. We have made this clear to the authorities in Khartoum and will be monitoring their actions carefully.

Progress in the ICC's investigations further consolidate the court as a key part of the international community's efforts to combat impunity for the alleged perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The UK remains at the forefront of those crimes.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Emergency Calls

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1189W, on ambulance services: emergency calls, if she will break down the figures by primary care trust. [132308]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally by primary care trust. Information on

emergency calls received by each national health service ambulance trust is available in the Library in "Ambulance Services, England: 2005/06", as well as at:

www.ic.nhs.uk

Care Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to encourage the NHS and social services to increase provision of intermediate *(a)* care services and *(b)* beds. [112614]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As part of the intermediate care funding announced in the NHS Plan, £66 million capital funding was made available to strategic health authorities in 2002-03 and 2003-04 to expand capacity and to support the development of intermediate care services and in particular a growth in bed numbers.

As at 30 September 2006, there were almost 33,000 intermediate care beds and places. Compared to 1999-2000 the number of intermediate care beds has more than doubled, the number of intermediate care places in non-residential settings has trebled and almost three times as many people benefit from intermediate care.

Centrally Funded Initiatives Services and Special Allocations

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the planned Centrally Funded Initiatives Services and Special Allocations budget is for 2006-07; when those budgets were given to primary care trusts; what flexibility there is for changing plans in-year, and what advice she has given to primary care trusts on in-year changes. [129885]

Andy Burnham: Full year 2006-07 information on centrally funded initiatives services and special allocations (CFISSA) is not yet available but the 2006-07 departmental report that has an estimated publishing date of May 2007 will provide a breakdown of the main budget lines. For the 2006-07 departmental report it is proposed to refer to this area simply as the central national health service programme.

The vast majority of the 2006-07 CFISSA allocations were notified to strategic health authorities' (SHAs) directors of finance on 26 July 2006. The aim has always been to allocate the funding as early as possible, but there is always a small proportion allocated late in the financial year. The residual items were issued on 19 January 2007.

To give SHAs the maximum possible flexibility, the funding for the central budget programme was allocated as a single bundle allocation to SHAs. One of the key objectives of the bundle is to enable local decision making by the NHS. Each SHA is responsible and accountable for its agreed share of the bundle, and in consultation with local stakeholders will agree how best to deploy their resources and manage in year changes.

Child Birth

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of births took place *(a)* at home, *(b)* in a midwife-led maternity unit and *(c)* in an obstetrician-led maternity unit in England in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by NHS trust. [131855]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The "NHS Maternity Statistics, England: 2004-05", copies of which are available in the Library for the last year for which we have figures, shows there were 584,100 hospital births and 13,700 home births. This equates to 97.7 per cent. hospital and 2.3 per cent. home births.

Of the hospital births, 54 per cent. were in consultant wards, 40 per cent. were in joint consultant/midwife/general practitioner (GP) wards, 4 per cent. in midwife led wards and 1 per cent. in GP wards. We are not able to break down these figures by NHS trust.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the suitability of using immunochemical tests for the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening programme. [131050]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Health Service Bowel Cancer Screening programme is constantly alert to new methodologies and improved technologies in order to ensure the best quality of services. We have recently completed the second trial of a planned series into the appropriateness and effectiveness of using an immunological test. Data from this early work are currently being analysed and we expect to receive a report in summer 2007.

Departmental Research

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost was of government social research in her Department in each of the last five years; how many projects were completed in that period; and how many people are employed in working on such research; [102595]

(2) when she will answer the question 102595, tabled by the hon. Member for Forest of Dean on 21 November 2006, on social research. [110223]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's expenditure on hospitality and entertainment was in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2005-06. [114027]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Expenditure on hospitality and entertaining arises in the context of promoting the Department's business objectives. The expenditure for the periods requested is as follows:

1996-97: £105,192

With the introduction of the Department's new finance system in April 2004, a number of financial codes were combined to include miscellaneous expenditure, which is not classifiable as hospitality or entertaining. Therefore we do not hold an accurate value for the period 2005-06.

Departments: Domestic Visits

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place in her Department to ensure that hon. Members are informed of a ministerial visit to their constituency. [127606]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The diary secretaries of all departmental Ministers inform hon. Members of a ministerial visit to their constituency as soon as the visit programme is confirmed.

Departments: Ministers' Private Offices

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the staff cost is to her private office of keeping her official diary; [127607]

(2) what qualifications are required to work as a diary secretary in her private office. [127608]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It would not be appropriate to identify the staff cost associated with keeping my official diary, as to do so would reveal an individual's personal salary information. Staff are recruited to my private office on the basis of their experience and expertise.

Departments: Official Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* travel and *(b)* accommodation (i) in the UK and (ii) abroad by her Department in each year since 1997. [122475]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the Department's expenditure on travel and subsistence in the United Kingdom and abroad in each year since 1997 is as follows.

£

	UK travel	*UK subsistence*	*Overseas travel and subsistence*	*Total*
1997-98	6,230,714	870,832	575,458	7,677,004
1998-99	5,421,862	852,272	590,089	6,864,223
1999-2000	6,726,111	1,083,664	553,386	8,363,161
2000-01	6,948,398	1,369,780	549,105	8,867,283
2001-02	7,546,829	1,392,948	608,814	9,548,591
2002-03	7,189,396	1,421,354	591,748	9,202,498
2003-04	7,720,637	2,019,014	702,055	10,441,706

The Department's finance systems do not hold information in the format requested. The figures quoted for subsistence include accommodation costs which are not available separately.

The information has not been collected in the requested detail since April 2004, when the Department introduced a new accounting system, as the Department is not required to report in such detail for the statutory accounts. Further analysis to provide the level of detail cannot be undertaken without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in (i) her Department and (ii) each agency of her Department in each year since 1997-98; how much is planned to be spent for 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [131434]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* The total cost of exits (i.e. compulsory redundancies and early retirements/severances) for the Department are:

	Voluntary (£)	*Compulsory (£)*	*Total (£ million)*
2004-05	18,808,078	4,334,777	23.1
2005-06	3,560,055	2,981,767	6.5
2006-07	3,013,354	1,713,311	4.7

In 2007-08 a voluntary exit scheme on flexible terms was launched in the Department in March 2007. We estimate costs of approximately £10 million.

For the period prior to the financial year 2004-05, data could only be established at disproportionate cost.

The National Health Service Purchasing and Supply Agency have had no voluntary staff exit schemes in the period 2000 to the present day. The cost of compulsory redundancies from the available information is £225,882 in 2003-04, £89,710 in 2004-05, £1,189,946 in 2005-06, £231,895 in 2006-07 and a forecast of £658,121 in 2007-08.

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has had no compulsory redundancies in the period 2003 to the present day. The cost of voluntary schemes has been £43,000 in 2003-04, £53,000 in 2004-05, £51,000 in 2005-06, £130,000 in 2006-07 and a nil forecast for 2007-08.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in her Department participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if she will make a statement. [131438]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* For the period prior to the financial year 2005-06, data could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In 2005-06, eight people left the Department under compulsory terms and 25 voluntarily. In 2006-07, eight people left the Department under compulsory terms and 31 voluntarily.

Health Care Spending

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by NHS purchasers on *(a)* beds and *(b)* furniture in each year since 1997; and what percentage were sourced from (i) the UK, (ii) other EU countries and (iii) elsewhere. [107374]

Andy Burnham: The information is not collected in the requested format.

National health service trusts are not asked to report their spend on beds centrally. Many beds (and mattresses) replaced within the NHS are done so on a planned rental, lease or managed service basis. Therefore the products being replaced are often the property of the supplier or finance provider, not necessarily the NHS.

During the last two years of the previous national framework agreement for furniture, contract sales were running at £24 million and £27 million. These figures do not reflect trusts purchasing direct from suppliers and the NHS Supply Chain estimates that in April 2004 the value of furniture sales to the whole of the NHS was about £60 million per year.

The current framework agreement started in September 2004 and yearly sales have been as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	31
2005-06	36

The contract sales are all from United Kingdom suppliers on the framework agreement. These contracts are not mandatory, and therefore some NHS trusts buy from other sources. As the all trust data are not collected centrally, it is not possible to identify the sources of the suppliers where trusts have entered into purchases separate to the central framework agreement. These figures do not therefore cover the total NHS spend.

In addition, data are available for the amount spent on furniture, office and computer equipment for each year for the period 2000-01 to 2004-05.

	Amount (£)
2000-01	314,328,734
2001-02	250,906,128
2002-03	307,380,747
2003-04	272,513,664
2004-05	[1]228,147,50

[1] Foundation trust figures are not included, as it is not mandatory for them to submit the returns.

The data for 2005-06 are not yet available.

Health Providers

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she has taken to improve the quality of care delivered by *(a)* health visitors, *(b)* district nurses and *(c)* child psychologists in the last five years; [109061]

(2) when she expects to reply to question No. 109061, tabled on 11 December 2006. [131264]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our vision as set out in the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say", which we published in 2006, depends on strengthening health care outside hospital. The Government have four goals:

to provide better preventive services;

to give patients more choice;

to tackle inequalities; and

to improve care for people with long-term conditions.

We have introduced a number of policies aimed at improving care for children and families and developing the role of health visitors. These include the national service framework for children, young people and maternity services and the chief nursing officer's review of the nursing contribution to vulnerable children. We are currently undertaking a review of the role of health visitors as part of Modernising Nursing Careers.

District nurses have a key role to play in enabling more care to be delivered outside of hospital. Modernising Nursing Careers, launched by the Secretary of State last September, pays special attention to nurses caring for people in their own homes, so they can help deliver White Paper goals. Also, many district nurses have received additional training via the cancer networks so they can maximise their input to those with life-threatening, palliative or end of life needs.

"Essence of Care", published in 2001 and updated in 2003 and 2006, is a national system of benchmarking the quality of patient care across a range of fundamental dimensions. It is widely used across the national health service, and enables district nurses and others to assess the care they offer patients against a set of good practice indicators. Local action plans to improve services are designed and implemented, some of which, like the red tray scheme for patients at risk of poor nutrition, have been adopted nationwide.

Child psychologists are playing an increasing role in the services provided by a comprehensive child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS). Since 2003 the number of child psychologists, both clinical and educational, working in CAMHS teams has increased by 33 per cent. They have a particularly important role in developing mental health services for young people who also have a learning disability.

Healthcare Commission: Inspections

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms exist to promote consistency in the decisions of Healthcare Commission inspectors in different areas; and if she will make a statement. [130805]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* The Healthcare Commission has confirmed that national consistency in its assessments is a priority and that there are quality assurance and control systems in place to ensure that consistency is maximised.

The Commission has said that all its assessment managers, who carry out inspections, receive national training covering the overall principles of assessment, guidance on acquiring, analysing, and evaluating evidence, making judgments, and summarising assessments in a standardised report. Assessment managers carry out their inspections using a national assessment framework which provides a clear basis for assessing each of the core standards set out in "Standards for Better Health" (Department of Health 2004) and the "National Minimum Standards for Independent Health Care" issued under the Care Standards Act 2000.

The Commission has added that, in the case of the national health service, a national panel considers the assessments made against each standard across the

country: assessment managers and their line managers may be required to review assessments in the light of local or national comparisons.

Heart Diseases: Standards

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how her Department plans to meet cardiac rehabilitation standards as set out in the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease; [131743]

(2) how much was spent on cardiac rehabilitation services in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years; and how much is expected to be spent in each area in 2007-08; [131745]

(3) what assessment she has made of the likely effects for *(a)* coronary heart disease patients, *(b)* health inequalities and *(c)* primary care trust spending on coronary heart disease of achieving the standards set out in the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease relating to cardiac rehabilitation services. [131782]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The provision of cardiac rehabilitation services is a matter for the local national health service, working in partnership with stakeholders and the local community. It is for NHS organisations to plan and develop services based on their specific local knowledge and expertise. Data are not collected centrally regarding primary care trust spending on cardiac rehabilitation.

A new National Cardiac Rehabilitation Audit is being developed across England, jointly sponsored by the British Heart Foundation and the Healthcare Commission. This will provide stronger evidence on effectiveness and encourage local areas to appraise and improve their provision of cardiac rehabilitation.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards targets set out in the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease; and if she will make a statement. [131749]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The National Service Framework (NSF) for Coronary Heart Disease published in March 2000 sets a 10-year framework for action to prevent disease, tackle inequalities, save more lives, and improve the quality of life for people with heart disease.

The implementation of this NSF has led to a reduction of premature mortality, improved diagnostic and treatment facilities, faster care and better prevention of heart disease.

This progress is set out in detail in the recent report, "Shaping the future", copies of which have been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Learning Disability

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* she, *(b)* Ministers in her Department and *(c)* officials have had with Mencap on the quality of treatment of people with learning disabilities in NHS hospitals; and if she will make a statement. [129822]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State has met with the chief executive of Mencap and the families of those people who were mentioned in Mencap's report, published on 12 March 2007.

Officials have had numerous discussions with Mencap. The Secretary of State will be holding an independent inquiry to look into the cases highlighted by Mencap and to review the quality of treatment of people with learning disabilities in national health service hospitals.

Hospitals: Telephones

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if the Department will place in the Library a copy of its formal response to the letter of 19 January 2006 from the Office of Communications on patient power systems. [131970]

Andy Burnham: The Department's formal response to the Office of Communications' letter of 19 January 2006 regarding the patient power systems has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Uniforms

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 832W, on uniforms, what the expected publication date is for *(a)* the commissioned literature review on the microbiological and social importance of uniforms in relation to hospital acquired infections, *(b)* the scientific study of the effect of water temperature on the removal of micro-organisms during laundering and *(c)* draft information on professional appearance, patient confidence and healthcare associated infections. [127604]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Both the literature review and the commissioned research are being prepared for publication in scientific journals, and therefore the date of their publication is not yet known.

Summary information on professional appearance, patient confidence and healthcare associated infections will appear on the Department's website, as part of a package of evidence and good practice that will help trusts establish their own procedures. We expect this to be within the next two months.

The information on the website will contain the broad conclusions from the literature review and commissioned research, to get this information to the NHS in the shortest time possible.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to publish the first sets of data showing referral-to-treatment waiting times for *(a)* admitted and *(b)* non-admitted patients. [131850]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire to the written answer I gave him on 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1088W.

Junior Doctors

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has any plans to provide more careers guidance for junior doctors who may have to change specialties as a result of the recent training reform. [132028]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Yes. We have established a review group led by Professor Neil Douglas, Vice-Chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, to address the issues and concerns raised as a result of the modernising medical careers recruitment process this year. The review group has asked us to undertake work to develop a support package for doctors who may be displaced because they have not obtained a training post in the specialty they wanted.

We are working with the review group, NHS employers, postgraduate deaneries and local employers to develop such a package.

Maternity Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* maternity units and *(b)* maternity beds there are in each strategic health authority. [129888]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The breakdown by strategic health authority on the number of maternity units and the number of maternity beds is shown in the following tables. Maternity units referred to are either consultant led or midwife led units. This information has been derived from a number of sources and covers 2004-05 and 2005-06. Beds are shown by the average daily number available averaged over the course of the year. This is for 2005-06.

SHA	*Consultant unit*	*Maternity led unit*	*Total*
East Midlands	11	4	15
East of England	19	9	28
London	30	13	43
North East	12	6	18
North West	28	8	36
South Central	11	16	27
South East Coast	16	6	22
South West	16	21	37
West Midlands	19	10	29
Yorkshire and Humber	19	8	27
Total	181	101	282

Organisation ID	*Name*	*Maternity beds (available)*
	England	8,883
Q30	North East	474
Q31	North West	1,347
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber	935
Q33	East Midlands	667
Q34	West Midlands	951
Q35	East of England	860
Q36	London	1,559
Q37	South East Coast	613
Q38	South Central	631
Q39	South West	848

Medicine: Overseas Students

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will consider allowing all non-European economic area medical students who started their studies when the previous immigration rules were in place to complete their studies. [130371]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 28 March 2007]*: The studies of undergraduate medical students were not affected by the changes to the immigration rules.

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what support is being provided to non-European economic area medical students to assist them to make alternative arrangements for their postgraduate study following changes to the immigration rules; [130372]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of non-European economic area medical students who started studying before the new immigration rules for postgraduate training were introduced and who, under the new rules, will be unable to complete their training in the UK. [130373]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A concession has been granted to non-European economic area (EEA) undergraduate medical students who will have the opportunity to complete a two year postgraduate foundation programme without a work permit. Once the foundation course has been completed doctors will need to meet the normal requirements of the immigration rules.

Medical schools are able to admit up to 7.5 per cent. of their students from outside the EEA.

Medicine: Students

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which body is responsible for training doctors and the development of the curriculum for medical education. [131641]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: In England the strategic health authorities through their postgraduate deaneries are responsible for managing and organising postgraduate training. The postgraduate curricula are developed by the medical Royal Colleges and their faculties. The Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board is responsible for approving the curricula submitted by the medical Royal Colleges and also for the approval and quality assurance of the programmes organised by the postgraduate deaneries.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to reply to the letter of 14 February 2007 from the hon. Member for Billericay on the big lottery fund and the Living With Cancer programme. [130723]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: I replied to the hon. Member on 29 March 2007.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Minister with responsibility for Health Services, the hon. Member for Doncaster, Central (Ms Winterton) will respond to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham's letter of 8 March on the Mental Health Bill and implications for its Second Reading due on 16 April. [131375]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 29 March 2007.

Mental Health Services: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to reduce the number of young people waiting over 26 weeks to see child and adolescent mental health services staff. [130273]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the three years to 31 March 2006 the Department invested over £300 million to improve and expand child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). The number of specialist CAMHS staff increased by 35 per cent. between 2002 and 2005. We have also established the National CAMHS Support Service to provide commissioners and providers of CAMHS with expert advice on best practice.

The number of children and adolescents waiting to be seen for over 26 weeks by specialist non-residential CAMHS teams fell from 6,100 in 2004 to 4,000 in 2005, the latest year for which figures are available.

Mental Health Services: Essex

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what basis the unit costs set out in table 1, page 11 of the report of the Public Consultation Review of Mental Health Employment Services across South Essex submitted to the South West Essex Primary Care Trust were calculated; and if she will make a statement; [130871]

(2) what the basis was for the conclusion of the report of the Public Consultation Review of Mental Health Employment Services across South Essex submitted to the South West Essex Primary Care Trust that the employment services, with the exception of the SEPT vocational unit, were not achieving satisfactory outcomes in relation to the service level agreement with the three Rethink employment services in South Essex; and if she will make a statement. [130872]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The information requested is not held centrally and can instead be obtained direct from the South West Essex Primary Care Trust.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what occasions Mark Tebbs, the Mental Health Commissioner for South West Essex Primary Care Trust, visited the service trainees at Rethink Pet Supplies in Basildon prior to the publication of his report; and if she will make a statement. [130873]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The NHS East of England Strategic Health Authority reports that the South West Essex Primary Care Trust (PCT) has apologised to Rethink Pet Supplies for not visiting them before the initial review stage began. However, the PCT has since visited the company on 22 March to discuss the complaints of service users.

Midwives: Insurance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the availability of personal indemnity insurance for independent midwives; and if she will make a statement. [130875]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: Professional indemnity insurance is currently not available for independent midwives. We understand that this is because they practise in a specialty associated with the highest level of awards arising from litigation. We have been working with the Independent Midwives Association and other independent midwives since 2004 to provide some solutions and suggested alternatives. This process is continuing.

Ministerial Travel

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the occasions since she has held her present office when she has used *(a)* rail services, *(b)* the London Underground, *(c)* tram or light railway services and *(d)* buses in connection with her ministerial duties. [101986]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State regularly uses rail services in connection with her ministerial duties. Since taking up her post as the Secretary of State for Health, she has used rail services to travel to the following locations in her ministerial capacity.

2005

26 May—Huntingdon
15 June—Brussels
17 June—Birmingham
21 June—Wakefield
28 June—Manchester
13 July—Brussels
19 October—Birmingham
29 October—Birmingham
11 November—Harrogate
8 December—Brussels

2006

4 January—Chatham
5 January—Birmingham
14 January—Nottingham
10 February—Birmingham
28 February—Nottingham
14 March—Birmingham

24 March—Wolverhampton and Manchester
3 April—Manchester and Stoke
24 April—Newcastle
26 April—Bournemouth
27 April—Birmingham
12 May—Bristol
12 June—York
16 June—Birmingham
27 June—Reading
11 July—Milton Keynes
14 July—Brighton
25 July—Bath
6 September—Bedford
7 September—Darlington
12 September—Brighton
4 October—Bedford
18 October—York
20 October—Brighton
24 November—Coventry
12 December—Birmingham

2007

19 January—Liverpool
9 March—Durham
22 March—Derby

NHS: Drugs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1692W, on NHS: drugs, whether the permissibility of accepting hospitality at meetings under the rules includes transport to such meetings *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas. [126965]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 March 2007]*: Under the Medicines (Advertising) Regulations 1994, hospitality provided to health professionals by the pharmaceutical industry at scientific or promotional meetings may include the payment of travelling or accommodation expenses. This must be strictly limited to the main purpose of the meeting or event.

The self-regulatory Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry code of practice for the pharmaceutical industry provides further guidance on the appropriate level of hospitality to be offered. This includes a restriction to economy air travel for delegates sponsored to attend meetings.

NHS: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the savings to *(a)* the University hospitals of Morecambe Bay trust and *(b)* the Cumbria primary care trust in the financial year 2007-08 will be as a result of the announcement that trusts in deficit will not be fined in addition to being required to pay back the deficit. [132041]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The income deduction of £6,357,000 applied to the University hospitals of Morecambe Bay in 2006-07 as a result of overspending in 2005-06 will be reversed. At quarter three the trust was forecasting a deficit of £6,357,000; the reversal of the income deduction means the revised forecast is for breakeven.

In 2007-08 national health service trusts will not be subject to income deductions for overspending in 2006-07.

The changes to the resource accounting and budgeting regime apply to NHS trusts only. This is in line with the recommendations in the Audit Commission "Review of the NHS Financial Management and Accounting Regime" published in July 2006.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average pay awarded to *(a)* GPs, *(b)* consultants and *(c)* nurses was in each of the last 10 years; and what the percentage increase was over the previous year in each case in each year. [130042]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 March 2007]*: Tables one, two and three show general practitioners (GPs) and table four shows consultants and nurses.

Available information on GP pay is as follows:

Table one: Average GP net income (national health service only), Great Britain - intended average net remuneration/income

	Amount (£)	Percentage increase over previous year
1997-98	46,031	3.5
1998-99	48,037	4.4
1999-2000	52,606	9.5
2000-01	54,219	3.1
2001-02	56,510	4.2
2002-03	61,618	9.0

Table two: Estimated average GP net income (NHS only), Great Britain

	Amount (£)
2003-04	72,752

Table three: Estimated average GP net income (all sources), United Kingdom

	Amount (£)
2004-05	100,000
2005-06	[1]
2006-07	[1]

[1] Not yet available.

The concept of intended average net remuneration (IANR) disappeared with the introduction of the new general medical services contract in 2003-04. Figures for future years, including the 2003-04 and 2004-05 estimates, are not comparable with IANR figures so no percentage increases for those years are shown. Since 2004-05 information on GP income is derived from the HM Revenue and Customs tax self-assessment database which relates to income from all sources, NHS and private. Information for 2005-06 will not be available until late 2007.

Table four: Shows information for consultants and nurses

	Average pay for consultants (£)	Percentage increase for consultants (average earnings per fte)	Average pay for nurses (£)	Percentage increase for nurses (average earnings per fte)
1997-98	65,790	1.0	20,760	-8.5
1998-99	69,934	6.3	20,972	1.0
1999-2000	74,007	5.8	22,280	6.2
2000-01	80,604	9.0	23,371	4.9
2001-02	86,477	7.2	24,673	5.6
2002-03	89,846	3.9	25,613	3.8
2003-04	103,246	14.9	26,236	2.4
2004-05	109,728	6.3	27,836	6.1
2005-06	112,828	2.8	29,010	4.2
2006-07	117,634	4.3	30,507	5.2
2007-08	112,456	4.1	31,826	4.3

Notes: Figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are estimated projections and are subject to change.

NHS: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Department's press release of 27 February 2007, Mapping the success of NHS building schemes since 1997, when she expects each of the private finance initiative schemes mentioned in the press release to reach financial close. [131931]

Andy Burnham: The table gives the dates that financial close is planned for each of the schemes mentioned in the press release of 27 February 2007, Mapping the success of national health service building schemes since 1997.

	Date
Mid Yorkshire NHS Hospitals Trust	Quarter 2 2007
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	Quarter 3 2007
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	Quarter 3 2007
Tees and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust	Quarter 3 2007
Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust	Quarter 3 2007
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	Quarter 1 2008
North Bristol/South Gloucestershire primary care trusts	Quarter 4 2008

Primary Care Trusts

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) to whom primary care trusts are accountable; and which areas of their operation they are required to account for; [105952]

(2) what the statutory duties are of primary care trusts; and what other duties her Department expects them to perform. [104691]

Andy Burnham: Under the National Health Service Act 2006, schedule 3, paragraph 20, each primary care trust (PCT) must prepare an annual report on its activities during the previous financial year. It must send a copy of the report to each strategic health authority (SHA) whose area includes any part of the PCT's area. It must also send a copy of the report to the Secretary of State. The report must give details of the measures the PCT has taken to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness in using its resources for the exercise of its functions.

In addition, if any such SHA, or the Secretary of State, requires other reports or information, the PCT must prepare and send such reports or information to the SHA or the Secretary of State as the case may be.

SHAs have certain detailed functions, under the National Health Service (Functions of Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts and Administration Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2002, to support and manage the performance of PCTs. The Secretary of State may give directions to any SHA or PCT about its exercise of any functions (under section 8 of the National Health Service Act 2006), and a SHA may give directions to a PCT about its exercise of any function (under section 20 of the Act).

Under schedule 15 of the Act, PCTs must prepare annual accounts in respect of each financial year and send them to the Secretary of State and to any SHA whose area includes any part of the PCT's area. The Secretary of State must prepare summarised accounts relating to PCTs and send them to the Comptroller and Auditor General, who must lay copies of the accounts and his report on them before both Houses of Parliament.

Further information is published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4134649

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Private Hospital Treatments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS patients requiring *(a)* heart transplants and *(b)* hip replacement surgery have been referred to private hospitals for their treatment in the last five years; and how many were treated in NHS hospitals. [115568]

Andy Burnham: The following table contains the number of procedures for heart transplants and hip replacements for the period 2000 to 2005.

	Hip replacements	Heart transplants
2005-06	88,790	168
2004-05	86,712	203
2003-04	84,974	187
2002-03	80,654	265
2001-02	75,039	268
2000-01	73,065	275

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the Information Centre for health and social care.

It is not possible to identify from HES data whether these procedures took place in an NHS hospital or a private hospital.

Prostate Cancer

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to reduce the inequality in experience reported by men with prostate cancer compared to that reported by patients with other cancers. [131687]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Following publication of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) "Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancer" guidance, strategic health authorities (SHAs) and Cancer Networks submitted action plans to the both the cancer action team and the Department's planning and performance review team in June 2004, which detailed agreed milestones for investment and implementation of the improving outcomes in urological cancer guidance produced by NICE.

The cancer action team has assessed these plans to determine the extent to which the guidance will be implemented between 2005 and December 2007, and feedback was given to networks and SHAs. SHAs are now monitoring key milestones identified in the action plans every six months and then reporting back to the Department on their progress.

This action, together with the National Cancer Peer Review Programme, will enable us to provide a comparative measure of progress on overall implementation of the guidance.

Additionally, at the start of April the cancer action team appointed an Associate Director for Patient Experience, whose responsibilities include improving the patient experience of prostate cancer patients.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical nurse specialists are working with prostate cancer patients in England; and what her assessment is of the adequacy of these numbers. [131688]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data on the number of clinical nurse specialists are not collected centrally. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has identified clinical nurse specialists as core members of the urology multidisciplinary team in their "Improving Outcomes in Urological Cancers" guidance issued in 2002. It is for cancer networks to work in partnership with strategic health authorities, national health service trusts and postgraduate deaneries to put in place a sustainable process to assess, plan and review their work force needs and the education and training of all staff linked to local and national priorities for cancer, including the implementation of NICE improving outcomes guidance.

Written Questions

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will answer question 127973, on the End Waiting, change lives initiative, tabled on 14 March by the hon. Member for Harrogate and Knaresborough. [132053]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A reply was given to the hon. Member on 17 April 2007.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will answer the question tabled by the hon. Member for Forest of Dean on *(a)* 21 November 2006, reference 102595, on social research, and *(b)* 13 December 2006, reference 110223, requesting an answer to that question. [132293]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: An answer has been given today.

ZooBiotic

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ministerial visits have taken place to ZooBiotic in Bridgend in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [127751]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have been no ministerial visits to ZooBiotic in Bridgend in the last 12 months.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* prosecuted for using their mobile phones while driving since the legislation banning their use while driving was introduced. [130417]

Mr. Coaker: Information requested on arrests for summary motoring offences of 'use of a hand-held mobile phone while driving' is not collected centrally.

Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, from 2003 to 2004 (latest available) is provided in the table. As the majority of 'use of hand-held mobile phone while driving' offences are dealt with by the issue of a fixed penalty notice, these are also included.

2005 data will be available later this year.

Fixed penalty notices issued[1] and total court proceedings for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[2], England and Wales, 2003-04

2003		2004	
Fixed penalty notices issued[1]	*Total court proceedings[3]*	*Fixed penalty notices issued[1]*	*Total court proceedings[3]*
1,888	1	73,976	789

[1] Fixed penalty notices paid where there is no further action.

[2] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2 and 110 (3), (Offence introduced 1 December 2003).

[3] Includes cases where fixed penalty notices were originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

Notes:

1. It Is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Department for Constitutional Affairs reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Female Genital Mutilation

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of UK citizens who were subjected to female genital mutilation in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [130522]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally. The Department has commissioned a study into the prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM), which will provide information on the likely incidence of FGM in England and Wales. This study is currently being finalised.

National Crime Squad

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 458W, on the National Crime Squad, what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* Class A drug trafficking, *(b)* organised immigration crime and *(c)* hi-tech crime; and if he will make a statement. [131587]

Mr. Coaker: The UK Threat Assessment (UKTA), available on the Serious Organised Crime Agency website, estimates that between 60 to 80 tonnes of heroin and cocaine are trafficked into the UK each year. The UK consumption of ecstasy is estimated at between 500,000 and 2 million tablets per week.

The UKTA describes the modus operandi of people smugglers and human traffickers, as well as offering a description of the nature of the problem but makes no quantitative assessment of the threat.

Hi-tech crime is covered in the chapter of the UKTA dealing with non-fiscal fraud. The UKTA recognises that the scale of non-fiscal fraud is difficult to estimate accurately as not all frauds are discovered and not all discovered frauds are reported.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 458W, on the National Crime Squad, how much funding was provided to each of the four threat areas in each year since 1998. [131588]

Mr. Coaker: Accounting within the National Crime Squad (NCS) was based on the nature of expenditure not the activity to which that expenditure related, therefore, it has not been possible to give details of the funding NCS provided to each of the main threats.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of selling a crossbow to a person aged under 18 in each of the last five years. [131240]

Mr. Coaker: It is an offence under the Crossbows Act 1987 to sell or hire a crossbow or part of a crossbow to person under the age of 17.

Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of persons found guilty at all courts for this offence in England and Wales from 2001-2005, show that there were no convictions for this offence during those years.

Information for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Prisons: Genetics

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how prisoners without a DNA profile on the National DNA database were identified for the purposes of the DNA Prisoner Sampling Exercise in 2003. [122907]

John Reid: Data on all the then 72,000 prisoners were taken from the Prison Service Inmate Information System. This was then compared with data held on the Police National Computer and the National DNA Database about these individuals to see whether a DNA sample had already been taken from them. Work was also done comparing Department of Health records with data on PNC and NDNAD, to identify patients held in secure mental health units who had not had DNA samples taken.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was provided to the *(a)* intelligence directorate, *(b)* enforcement directorate, *(c)* intervention directorate and *(d)* corporate services directorate of the Serious Organised Crime Agency for the financial year 2006-07; and what funding projections he has made for each directorate for the financial year 2007-08. [131686]

Mr. Coaker: For the financial year 2006-07 the Home Office delegated a budget to SOCA of £427million. SOCA's 2006-07 Annual Plan, published in March 2006, set out how SOCA intended to exercise its functions during the 2006-07 financial year.

The internal allocation of resources between directorates is a matter for the SOCA Board.

For the 2007-08 financial year the Home Secretary will approve SOCA's overall funding. The final decision on this is expected shortly but the assumption is that funding will be broadly level in real terms with that of 2006-07; however, the internal allocation between directorates will again be a matter for the SOCA Board.

SOCA's 2007-08 Annual Plan was published on 30 March 2007. It sets out how SOCA will exercise its functions in this financial year. The aim is to apportion operational effort broadly as follows against the main threat sectors:

	Percentage
Drugs trafficking, primarily Class A,	40
Organised immigration crime	25
Individual and private sector fraud	10
Other organised crime	15

In addition, broadly 10 per cent. of operational effort should be used in support of law enforcement partners, when their objectives would not otherwise be SOCA priorities.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many financial investigators were employed by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in the last year for which figures are available. [131609]

Mr. Coaker: Many of SOCA's operational officers will have some involvement in financial investigations, because of SOCA's emphasis on attacking criminal assets.

SOCA came into existence on one April 2006 and it currently employs 209 Financial Investigators, as authorised by the Director of the Assets Recovery Agency, who are undertaking a number of roles.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Digital Broadcasting

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission which digital television channels are available to hon. Members' offices on the House of Commons estate; and how much was spent on *(a)* all channels and *(b)* Sky Sports in each of the last three years. [131062]

Nick Harvey: No digital television channels are available directly in Members' offices at present as they are currently converted to analogue in order to be broadcast with other channels over the annunciator system. In August 2006, however, a working group was set up to investigate options for replacing the current analogue system. A successful trial was carried out in March 2007 which proved that digital channels can be broadcast over the existing annunciator infrastructure and a Project Board will now take these options forward before the 2012 analogue switch-off date.

The House has spent nothing on Sky Sports or any other channel in the last three years as they are provided under a free licence.

The channels currently available are as follows:

Programme	*Channel*
1	BBC 1
2	BBC 2
3	ITV
4	Channel 4
5	Channel 5
6	HOC Chamber
7	HOC Annunciator
8	Lord's Chamber
9	HOL Annunciator
10	Sky News
11	CNN
12	Sky Sports 1
13	Sky Sports 2
14	Radio 4
15	News 24
16	Westminster Hall
17	BBC Parliament
18	Sky Sports 3
19	BBC World
20	Radio 3
21	Radio 5 Live
22	S4C2 Welsh Assembly
23	Moses Room—Webcast
24	Euronews

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people in his Department participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [131542]

Mr. Thomas: Since 1997, DFID has had no involuntary redundancies, but there have been voluntary early departures as set out in the following table. Selection for a new round of voluntary early departures in the 2007-08 financial year is currently under way and the number of staff accepting early departure offers should be finalised by the end of April.

Year	*Total number of approved voluntary early departures*
1997-98	3
1998-99	4
1999-2000	4
2000-01	2
2001-02	9
2002-03	24
2003-04	9
2004-05	11
2005-06	35
2006-07	32

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people in his Department who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [131562]

Mr. Thomas: Since 1997, DFID has had no involuntary redundancies, but there have been voluntary early departures. The following table sets out the number of early departures approved in each year since 1997-98. The totals listed against each year and financial band reflect the total cost of each departure to DFID recorded against the year in which the departure was approved. The total cost, in some cases, is spread over a number of years as annual compensation payments, where appropriate, are paid to staff until they qualify for their normal pension at age 60.

	Total number of approved voluntary early departures	£0-25,000	£25,001-50,000	£50,001-75,000	£75,001-100,000	Over £100,000
1997-98	3	—	1	2	—	—
1998-99	4	—	1	—	—	3
1999-2000	4	1	—	1	—	2
2000-01	2	—	—	—	—	2
2001-02	9	1	—	1	2	5
2002-03	24	1	4	6	6	7
2003-04	9	1	1	1	4	2
2004-05	11	2	2	0	3	4
2005-06	35	6	9	4	5	11
2006-07	32	7	8	4	3	10

Uganda

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is making a contribution to the UN Consolidated Appeals Process for Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [132304]

Hilary Benn: DFID has committed £18.6 million towards the UN Consolidated Appeal for Uganda this year. The World Food Programme will receive £7 million for emergency food aid. UNICEF will receive £7.4 million to improve water and sanitation provision, provide emergency household items when required and to support child protection services. £4.2 million will be provided to a joint UN health programme in the north and north-east.

Of the £18.6 million committed we have so far disbursed £8.4 million. The remainder will be released in instalments over the next six months.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Community Relations

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* walls and *(b)* locked gates are still in position dividing communities in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [131122]

Mr. Hain: There are 46 walls or fences and 11 gates of this kind in position in Northern Ireland. The Government are committed to removing barriers between communities. These barriers are only used reluctantly and as a last resort where necessary to protect life and property.

Employment: Young People

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pupils in Northern Ireland who left school in 2006 *(a)* have secured full-time employment, *(b)* have secured part-time employment, *(c)* are on a training scheme and *(d)* are unemployed. [132444]

Maria Eagle: The School Leavers' Survey collects data on the qualifications and main destinations of school leavers leaving mainstream education. Destination data are collected by the careers advisors in each of the post primary schools. It should be noted that the School Leavers' Survey does not collect information on part-time employment. Data for the 2005-06 academic year will not be available until the end of May. Therefore the following data relate to the 2004-05 academic year.

Of the 25,298 pupils leaving school in 2004-05:

(a) 2,538 entered employment

(b) Part-time employment data not collected separately

(c) 4,443 entered training[1]

(d) 1,122 left school and were unemployed

In addition 9,633 entered institutions of higher education, 6,953 entered institutions of further education and 609 had their destination recorded as unknown.

[1] Numbers entering training include those entering Jobskills programme, operated by the Department for Employment and Learning.

Equal Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the pay gap between men and women in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [132279]

Maria Eagle: The median hourly earnings, excluding overtime, for females employed on a full-time basis at April 2006 in Northern Ireland was estimated to be £9.98 compared to £10.00 for males. Female hourly earnings at April 2006 were 99.8 per cent. of males—an improvement in the position at April 2005 when they were 94.7 per cent. of male hourly earnings.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what response he has made to the Semple Report on Affordable Housing; and what funding has been allocated for its implementation. [132046]

Mr. Hanson: Sir John Semple made a series of practical suggestions across a range of policy areas in his final report which was received by the Department for Social Development on 4 April 2007. Housing markets are extremely complex and are influenced by a range of local, national and global social and economic

factors. The report has shown that concerted action across organisational boundaries is necessary to improve the delivery of affordable housing across tenures.

The Government are currently considering its response to the report and as I would want the newly appointed Minister to have an input into the response, it will not be until after 8 May devolution restoration that a response will be issued.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many new houses were constructed by housing associations in each district council area in Northern Ireland between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2007. [132098]

Mr. Hanson: During this seven year period, housing association house completions were as follows:

	Number
Antrim	79
Ards	142
Armagh	75
Ballymena	127
Ballymoney	63
Banbridge	68
Belfast	4,111
Carrick	225
Castlereagh	148
Coleraine	192
Cookstown	13
Craigavon	137
Derry	1,234
Down	293
Dungannon	66
Fermanagh	236
Larne	30
Limavady	127
Lisburn	968
Magherafelt	22
Moyle	2
Newry/Mourne	274
Newtownabbey	116
North Down	241
Omagh	131
Strabane	241

South Eastern Education and Library Board

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will ensure that the financial deficit generated by the South Eastern Education and Library Board is written off prior to the formation of the Education and Skills Authority. [131639]

Maria Eagle: The financial deficit generated by the South Eastern Education and Library Board will not be written off. The make up of the deficit in that Board is such that some of its schools are owed very significant sums of money and there can be no question of that money not being available to schools as and when they need it. The new Education and Skills Authority will therefore inherit that liability, along with the other assets and liabilities that will transfer from all predecessor bodies. It will have to plan its finances in a way that makes sure that schools in the SEELB area have access to the surpluses that they have accumulated and that schools in deficit continue to take action in line with their agreed recovery plans.

South Eastern Education and Library Board: Public Appointments

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what monies have been paid to the four Commissioners who were appointed to the South Eastern Education and Library Board in June 2006. [132214]

Maria Eagle: The chief executive of the South Eastern education and Library Board has advised me that, up to and including 28 February 2007, the four Commissioners who were appointed on 6 July 2006 have been paid a total of £66,742.60. Costs for March 2007 are not yet available.

Suicide

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* is planning in relation to combating suicide in Northern Ireland. [131625]

Paul Goggins: The Suicide Prevention Strategy, 'Protect Life—A Shared Vision', was published on 30 October 2006, and its primary aim is to reduce the levels of suicide and self-harm in Northern Ireland. The strategy takes both a general and targeted approach. Recurrent funding of £1.9 million was allocated for the implementation of the strategy in 2006-07, with £3 million identified for 2007-08 onwards. A families forum, which includes members of families directly affected by suicide, plays a crucial role in helping to inform and direct the strategy.

To date a number of pilot schemes and initiatives have been established, including:

a 24/7 suicide prevention telephone helpline pilot for north and west Belfast, which specifically targets young people;

a pilot mentoring scheme for people who self-harm in the Western Health and Social Services Board area;

the development, and roll-out, of a GP depression awareness training programme;

the launch of a public information campaign, designed to de-stigmatise mental health, and promote awareness and understanding of issues relating to suicide and self-harm; and

a literature review of the "effects of the troubles on the mental health and wellbeing of the population of Northern Ireland".

Funding has also been allocated to health and social services boards to support the development of community-based initiatives that will assist in a reduction of suicide and self-harm.

The strategy will also draw on the experiences of our counterparts across the UK and Ireland, and a Joint Five Nations Forum has been established to share best practice. An All-Island Action Plan has also been

developed in conjunction with the National Office of Suicide Prevention in the Republic of Ireland.

Other projects currently under consideration include:

additional research into the underlying causes of suicide in north and west Belfast and Banbridge;

the development of the next phase of the public information campaign;

the establishment of an advisory group to look at ways of improving the existing Northern Ireland suicide recording mechanisms;

an audit and evaluation of suicide related training programmes currently available in Northern Ireland;

the piloting of a self-harm registry in the Western Health and Social Services Board area; and

the development of an All-Island media watch facility.

Ulster Scots Language: Education

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he has taken to ensure equality of funding in Northern Ireland between the *(a)* Ulster Scots language and culture and *(b)* Gaelic language and culture; and what impact those steps have had on funding levels. [132430]

Maria Eagle: The two agencies of the Language Implementation Body are funded to carry out their functions as defined in the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999.

The budgets for the Ulster-Scots Agency and the Irish Language Agency, Foras na Gaeilge, are determined in accordance with their agreed annual business plans.

Following on from the commitment made by the Government in respect of Ulster-Scots in the St. Andrews Agreement, the Government and the Irish Government have agreed that additional resources of £0.5 million will be made available to the Ulster-Scots Agency in 2007-08, £0.75 million in 2008-09 and £1.0 million in 2009-10. The latter two years' additional funding is subject to the outcome of the comprehensive spending review in Northern Ireland.

PRIME MINISTER

Armed Forces: Mass Media

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Prime Minister whether the decision by the Ministry of Defence to allow serving military personnel to sell their stories to the media was *(a)* made known to and *(b)* authorised by him prior to being made public. [132017]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. member to the statement made by my right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence (Des Browne) on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 23-26.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Office. [132196]

The Prime Minister: For accounting purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Minister, for the Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong), today.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Bankruptcy: Legislation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the impact of the Enterprise Act 2002 on bankrupt individuals in the last four months. [132058]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In the last four months, The Insolvency Service has continued collating information as part of its evaluation of the Enterprise Act 2002. This evaluation attempts to comprehensively assess whether, to what extent and how the provisions of the Act meets its policy objectives, and will cover the impact of the Enterprise Act 2002 on bankrupts. Full details of the evaluation work being undertaken are set out in the evaluation planning papers which are available on The Insolvency Service's website

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/insolvencyprofessionandlegislation/legislation/Reform.htm.

The Insolvency Service is due to complete the evaluation work in summer 2007, with a final evaluation report being published in autumn 2007.

Energy Supply: Meters

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if he will meet the three energy suppliers who continue to back-charge token meter consumers and urge them to end the practice; [131292]

(2) whether the risks of debt associated with the late recalibration of electricity token meter recalibration has been clearly communicated to those token meter users who remain at risk of such debt by those suppliers who continue to back-charge following price rise announcements; and if he will make a statement. [131399]

Malcolm Wicks: The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including matters related to prepayment meters. My noble friend, the Minister for Energy has no plans to meet with the energy suppliers on this issue. I welcome Ofgem's commitment to working with suppliers to improve their performance in recalibrating and replacing certain prepayment meters. My Department continues to monitor progress.

Ofgem recently published an update in a letter of 21 March from its managing director of corporate affairs. This letter, which included details of the progress on customer communication made by Scottish Power, Powergen and npower, is available from Ofgem's website at:

www.ofgem.gov.uk

Post Offices: Closures

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to make a statement on the outcome of the Post Office closure consultation. [132269]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government's consultation on the future of the Post Office network attracted over 2,500 responses. We are currently considering these responses with the aim of announcing our decisions in May.

Post Offices: Urban Areas

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the proportion of people in urban areas who use post offices regularly. [132640]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook the managing director has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Sustainable Development

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much money has been *(a)* allocated for grants and *(b)* disbursed by the Clearskies Initiative in each month since the scheme began. [131692]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The information requested is as follows.

Clear Skies Programme—Household stream

Month	Allocated	£ Disbursed
2003		
April	18,800	500
May	71,000	6,000
June	53,700	23,500
July	86,700	15,500
August	89,000	25,500
September	135,100	27,200
October	188,250	44,000
November	181,800	54,000
December	121,400	50,600
2004		
January	158,750	96,500
February	259,100	97,700
March	268,400	118,000
April	180,050	152,200
May	206,500	119,950
June	330,700	142,500
July	151,000	149,350
August	181,200	132,100
September	190,000	125,600
October	103,600	112,950
November	106,300	147,300
December	77,500	100,500
2005		
January	67,300	139,800
February	82,600	134,600
March	131,500	102,800

Clear Skies Programme—Household stream

Month	Allocated	£ Disbursed
2003		
April	122,600	117,200
May	137,600	61,900
June	154,100	113,500
July	144,100	80,900
August	169,700	76,600
September	181,400	103,500
October	254,800	87,700
November	297,300	124,500
December	175,800	109,500
2006		
January	291,600	130,400
February	116,700	114,400
March	400	208,500
April	—	145,200
May	—	141,500
June	—	95,300
July	—	93,300
August	—	74,700
September	—	65,000
October	—	45,900
November	2,000	52,700
December	11,600	60,900
2007		
January	—	21,800
February	—	9,210
March	—	900

Clear Skies Programme—Communities stream

Month	Allocated	£ Disbursed
2003		
June	480,121.51	—
July	—	—
August	—	—
September	897,316.12	13,396.95
October	—	—
November	—	8,474.90
December	866,706.48	13,757.98
2004		
January	—	—
February		13,342.00
March	564,974.57	—
April	—	13,350.73
May	—	38,906.57
June	636,600.27	44,785.66
July	—	15,555.11
August	—	22,009.41
September	693,582.79	84,713.03
October	—	3,967.00
November	—	23,049.56
December	644,277.43	19,324.52
2005		
January	—	124,965.56
February	—	231,066.31
March	632,480.48	22,690.80
April	—	116,699.88
May	—	103,203.02
June	—	79,084.23

Clear Skies Programme—Communities stream

Month	Allocated	£ Disbursed
July	—	94,861.29
August	676,644.31	126,676.04
September	—	101,242.50
October	—	96,637.47
November	—	180,335.95
December	744,407.76	306,337.92
2006		
January	—	269,361.05
February	—	192,334.38
March	—	185,585.38
April	—	255,749.37
May	—	158,060.52
June	—	58,740.57
July	—	155,840.55
August	—	166,018.95
September	—	19,753.75
October	—	134,608.62
November	—	149,658.06
December	—	266,291.39
2007		
January	—	149,824.30
February	—	166,121.24
March	—	730,141.61

Technology: Research

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to stimulate research and development in low carbon technologies. [131738]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI is supporting a wide range of measures to stimulate research and development in low carbon technologies throughout the R and D energy innovation chain.

(a) Existing steps taken include:

Expenditure by the Research Councils (which are funded from the DTI science budget) on energy related basic, strategic and applied research and related postgraduate training will rise to over £70 million per annum by 2007-08. Research Council investments cover the full range of energy from renewables, fusion, improving networks and conventional generation, through to research to keep the nuclear option open. Energy research remains a cross-Council priority for future allocations.

Industrial collaborative research and development is funded through the DTI's Technology programme. The Technology programme is designed to stimulate innovation in the UK economy through higher levels of research and development and knowledge transfer. Funding is focussed on projects in strategically important technology areas. The DTI spends around £20 million per annum on low carbon energy technologies as part of this programme.

The UK is also an active participant in the Framework programme, which is Europe's main funding vehicle for research and development. The Government actively encourages UK participation in the Framework programme, and provides help and support to applicants through a dedicated helpline and structured workshops.

In Framework programme 6, which ran from 2002-06, the Energy element was worth €880 million of which the UK was successful in obtaining around €100 million of funding. The "Energy Thematic" within Framework programme 7 is worth €2.3 billion and runs from 2007-2013. The first call is currently underway.

(b) Future steps planned include:

In September 2006 the Secretary of State published a prospectus for a new Energy Technologies Institute, and confirmed that the Government would commit up to £500 million over ten years to this 50:50 public-private partnership. It will provide a focus for industrial collaboration and substantially increase the level of investment in the R and D necessary to identify the most promising energy technologies, and to accelerate their deployment.

Further support is provided by other Government Departments and organisations. (An example is the Carbon Trust, which—among other activities—provides support for innovation into low carbon energy activities.

TRANSPORT

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on changes in enforcement activity for the Blue Badge Scheme since the introduction of changes in regulations in September 2006. [131599]

Gillian Merron: It is too early to make an assessment at this stage, as the powers of enforcement have only been available to local authorities since September. However, the Department for Transport is working with local agencies to improve data collection and promote good practice in this area.

The Department is committed to tackling all Blue Badge misuse as signalled by a three-month strategic review of the scheme, which will report in September 2007. This will culminate in the production of a comprehensive Blue Badge Reform Strategy by April 2008.

Departments: Golden Arrow

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings the Minister of State, the hon. Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman) has attended with representatives of *(a)* Golden Arrow and *(b)* Sovereign Strategy since taking office; and if he will make a statement. [131069]

Dr. Ladyman: As part of the consultations on the Department for Transport's review of ports policy, I attended with DfT officials, a lunch on 18 July 2006, organised by Golden Arrow Communications, to hear the views of ports and shipping interests. As Minister of State, I have attended no other meetings organised by Golden Arrow or Sovereign Strategy.

I have attended conferences, receptions and other such events not organised by Golden Acrow Communications or Sovereign Strategy but at which individuals employed by them may have been present. No record is kept of such encounters.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people had their driving licences taken away in (*a*) 2005 and (*b*) 2006. [132024]

Dr. Ladyman: The information is not readily available from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Milton Keynes Railway Station

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of toilet provision within plans for the new platform upgrade at Milton Keynes railway station. [132045]

Mr. Tom Harris: The design and specification of facilities at Milton Keynes Central station is the responsibility of Network Rail.

The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question.

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Milton Keynes Station: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the platform upgrade of Milton Keynes station is due to be completed. [132329]

Mr. Tom Harris: The modifications to Milton Keynes Central station are due to be completed and commissioned in time for the introduction of the revised timetables for the West Coast Main Line in late 2008 to January 2009.

Motor Vehicles: Safety Measures

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to require all vehicles on UK roads to be fitted with wing mirrors on both sides. [132051]

Dr. Ladyman: All vehicles greater than 3,500kg total mass are already required to have a rear view mirror on each side.

Passenger cars and small goods vehicles are currently required to have an exterior rear view mirror fitted on the offside and either one interior mirror or an exterior mirror on the nearside. From January 2010 all cars and small goods vehicles will be required to have two external mirrors. However, in practice, most manufacturers have been fitting mirrors to both sides of their vehicles for some years.

Mopeds are required to have one mirror and motorcycles and motor tricycles are required to have two mirrors. We are currently working with user groups to get their views on whether these requirements need amending in the context of the Government's motorcycling strategy.

New heavy vehicles from January 2007 have been fitted with enhanced mirrors that improve driver vision. Similar requirements are being considered for existing vehicles as part of a package of measures being proposed by the European Commission. We are currently conducting a public consultation on the policy options for these proposals and this consultation closes on 4 May 2007. Copies of the consultation have been placed in the Libraries of the House and can also be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/retrofittingdevicesmirrors/

Pedestrian Crossings

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated completion date is for the non-motorised user crossings programme. [131199]

Dr. Ladyman: Delivery of new, and improvements to existing, non-motorised user crossings is ongoing. The Highways Agency is making good progress; 188 of the sites listed in 2003 having been investigated and works completed where appropriate. Future delivery is subject to the availability of funding and the Agency will continue to deliver improvements where this can be done cost-effectively. Therefore, it is not possible to provide an estimate of the completion date.

Railway Stations

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the announcement that 1,000 new carriages are planned to be added to the rail network by 2014, what assessment he has made of the capacity of non-suburban station platforms to accommodate longer trains. [132306]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State will publish a High Level Output Specification (HLOS) in the summer which will specify, inter alia, the additional rail capacity the Government wish to purchase. The rail industry will respond to the HLOS in October 2007 with proposals for delivering this extra capacity, including platform lengthening and other infrastructural investment, where appropriate.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to collate information on the number of foreign vehicles involved in road traffic accidents in the UK. [132052]

Dr. Ladyman: Since January 2005 the Department has collected information on whether vehicles involved in reported personal injury accidents in Great Britain are foreign registered. This information is published on

the Department's website in the annual publication "Road Casualties Great Britain: 2005 annual report" at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/roadcasualtiesgreatbritain2005

Copies of the report are also available in the Libraries of the House.

Rolling Stock

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration he has given to *(a)* the replacement of the British Rail Class 43 rolling stock and *(b)* a new generation high speed train. [132215]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department is currently seeking Expressions of Interest for the development and eventual delivery of a new fleet of Intercity Express trains suitable to replace the present high speed trains.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in approving time over distance cameras. [131803]

Dr. Ladyman: Average speed cameras were approved at 16 core sites within the National Safety Camera Programme. The National Safety Camera Programme ceased on 31 March 2007. In accordance with DfT Circular 01/2007, highway authorities now have the freedom to deploy type-approved average speed cameras without the Department's approval. The type approval of speed enforcement devices is a matter for the Home Office.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the first time over distance cameras are expected to be available for use. [131804]

Dr. Ladyman: The first average speed camera site within the National Safety Camera Programme was established in July 2000.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effectiveness of time over distance cameras in reducing the levels of *(a)* fatal, *(b)* major and *(c)* minor road injuries. [131805]

Dr. Ladyman: No specific assessment has been made of the effectiveness of time-over-distance cameras. However the independent 4-year evaluation report of the National Safety Camera Programme covered any time-over-distance cameras operating between April 2000 and March 2004. The independent academics concluded that they were equally as effective in reducing collisions and casualties as other fixed and red-light cameras. They also concluded that time-over-distance cameras have been particularly effective at reducing excessive speeds, which are defined as 15mph over the speed limit.

Tractors: Safety

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are taken to regulate the safety and roadworthiness of farm tractors. [131820]

Dr. Ladyman: The primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and roadworthiness of a farm tractor rests with the person who operates and uses it—exactly in the same way as it does with any type of vehicle. However, the condition of farm tractors is none the less subject to compliance checks by both the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, and by the Health and Safety Executive during routine farm visits.

TREASURY

Carbon Monoxide: Poisoning

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths there were from carbon monoxide poisoning in each London borough in each of the last five years. [132148]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 April 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were from carbon monoxide poisoning in each London borough in each of the last five years. (132148)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where the toxic effect of carbon monoxide was the cause of death, in each London borough, from 2001 to 2005 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths with a cause of carbon monoxide poisoning[1] London boroughs, 2001-05[2]

Deaths (persons)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Greater London	36	28	27	37	23
Inner London	6	8	14	10	5
Camden	0	0	0	0	0
City of London	0	0	0	1	0
Hackney	1	1	2	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	2	0	1	0
Haringey	1	1	1	1	1
Islington	0	0	0	3	0
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	2	0	0
Lambeth	0	1	2	0	0
Lewisham	1	0	1	0	2
Newham	0	1	3	0	0
Southwark	1	0	3	3	1
Tower Hamlets	0	1	0	0	0
Wandsworth	2	1	0	0	1
Westminster	0	0	0	1	0
Outer London	30	20	13	27	18
Barking and Dagenham	0	2	0	0	0
Barnet	2	1	1	0	1
Bexley	4	1	0	3	0
Brent	0	3	1	2	1
Bromley	2	2	1	1	3
Croydon	1	1	1	0	2
Ealing	2	3	1	2	0
Enfield	1	3	1	0	0
Greenwich	2	0	0	3	1
Harrow	2	1	1	3	0
Havering	3	1	0	2	0

Table 1 Number of deaths with a cause of carbon monoxide poisoning,[1] London boroughs, 2001-05[2]

	Deaths (persons)[3]				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Hillingdon	2	1	0	1	1
Hounslow	1	0	0	1	1
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	0	1	0
Merton	1	0	0	0	1
Redbridge	2	1	2	2	0
Richmond upon Thames	3	0	1	1	0
Sutton	2	0	2	0	2
Waltham Forest	0	1	1	5	1

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T58.
[2] Based on local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Child Trust Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 472W, on the Child Trust Fund, how much was paid to Sheree Murphy to promote the Child Trust Fund; and what activities she undertook. [129345]

Ed Balls: In support of Child Trust Fund week, Sheree Murphy was employed by HMRC to participate in interviews, features and photo shoots for national TV, press, radio, parenting and women's magazines. She was also featured in the Child Trust Fund Week pack, which helped partner organisations appeal to parents. The cost was £25,000.

Corporation Tax: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the changes in corporation tax allowances announced in the 2007 Budget on the level of Government liabilities in private finance initiative contracts. [132123]

Dawn Primarolo: The effect of the changes in capital allowances cannot be examined in isolation from other changes to corporation tax announced in the Budget; the proposed changes in the rate of corporation tax have a corresponding impact. Overall, the impact of the reforms to corporation tax announced in the 2007 Budget is to reduce the cost of capital for investment.

Departmental Press Office

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff are employed in the press offices of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies, broken down by pay band. [110948]

John Healey: The numbers of staff employed in the Press Office of the Treasury and its agencies as at 31 December 2006 are in the following table.

Department	Number of staff
GAD	Nil
HM Treasury	2 Range B
	3 Range C
	2 Range D
	3 Range E
	1 Team Leader
VSAT	3 Range D
	1 Range E
OGC	1 Range B
	2 Range D
	1 Team Leader
OGC Buying Solutions	1 Range C
Royal Mint	Nil

Departmental Travel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which company provides travel management services to his Department; and what the total value of the contract was in each year since 1997. [115220]

John Healey: Travel management services for air, sea and rail are currently provided under a former Inland Revenue (now part of HM Revenue and Customs) framework contract with Carlson Wagonlit Travel UK Limited. The Treasury has spent the following amounts on travel management services between July 2002 and March 2006.

Period	Fees[1] (£000's)
July 2002-03	35,000
2003-04	60,000
2004-05	86,000
2005-06	123,000

[1] Including VAT

The level of fees paid for travel management services obviously correspond to the level of travel undertaken. As a result, the figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 reflect the higher levels of travel undertaken throughout 2005 as a result of HM Treasury's international commitments during the UK's dual presidencies of the EU and G7, as well as the visits undertaken by the Chancellor and his officials during that period to Africa, the Middle East and China.

The information prior to July 2002 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in his Department participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement; [131549]

(2) how many people in his Department who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid

between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [131553]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1587-8W. An analysis of the costs between voluntary and compulsory schemes, or broken down by cost bands, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Silverfish Productions

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts his Department has awarded to Silverfish Productions Limited in each of the last three years; and at what cost. [127821]

John Healey: None.

Employment: Lone Parents

Mr. Gauke: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecast he has made of the employment rate for lone parents in 2010-11. [132039]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 April 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about lone parent employment rates. (132039)

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimate of the proportion of lone parents of working age that are in employment, for the three months ending May 2006, is 56.5 per cent. A historical series of lone parent employment rates is published in the 'Work and worklessness among households' First Release, which is available on the National Statistics website:

http:www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8552.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

ONS does not produce forecasts of lone parent employment rates.

Gift Aid

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely effect on charities receiving Gift Aid following the reduction in the basic rate of income tax to 20 per cent. from April 2008. [132040]

Dawn Primarolo: The precise impact on charities' income will depend on the behavioural reactions of donors and charities to the recent tax changes, and will also depend on any measures adopted to drive up giving through gift aid as a result of the consultation with the sector, which we will report on at the pre-Budget report. The strong upward trend in donations is however expected to result in consistent year-on-year growth in charities' overall income from giving through gift aid, including in the year 2008-09.

Income Tax: Tax Evasion

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of cases of and *(b)* loss of revenue through income tax evasion by those resident in (i) the United Kingdom, (ii) each region and (iii) each London borough in each of the last five years. [132171]

Dawn Primarolo: There are currently no reliable estimates of the income tax revenue lost through tax evasion.

Inheritance Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue implications of raising the inheritance tax threshold to *(a)* £350,000, *(b)* £400,000, *(c)* £450,000 and *(d)* £500,000 for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [131117]

Dawn Primarolo: Raising the inheritance tax threshold with effect from 2007-08 would have the following effect on forecast revenue receipts:

Reduction in revenue (£ billions) arising from raising the threshold to

	£350,000	£400,000	£450,000	£500,000
2007-08	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.7
2008-09	0.5	1.0	1.3	1.5
2009-10	0.6	1.1	1.4	1.7
2010-11	0.6	1.1	1.5	1.8

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue implications of extending the seven year rule for exemption of inheritance tax to 15 years; and if he will make a statement. [131836]

Dawn Primarolo: Information to make a reliable estimate is not available.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people receiving the national minimum wage, broken down by level of total annual earnings. [132120]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of employee jobs estimated to have been paying the national minimum wage in April 2006, split by gross annual earnings. In total, around 385,000 employee jobs were paid the national minimum wage.

Employee jobs[1] paying the national minimum wage[2]

	Gross annual earnings			
	Less than £5000	£5000 to £9,999	£10,000 to £14,999	£15,000 or more
Jobs paying national minimum wage	213,000	126,000	41,000	4,000

[1] Employees whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

[2] 16-17 year-olds earning £3.00 per hour, 18-21 year-olds earning £4.25 per hour, and those age 22 and over earning £5.05.

Note:

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, April 2006, Office for National Statistics

Personal Savings

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice he received on the implications for savings as a consequence of the abolition of personal equity plans and their replacement with individual savings accounts. [132036]

Ed Balls: As part of a package of reforms to be implemented from April 2008 aimed at making the ISA regime simpler and more flexible for savers, all remaining PEPs will be brought within the ISA wrapper, by aligning the rules for the two schemes.

The Government have received representations from the industry and consumer representatives that this change will enable investors to integrate their stocks and shares investments within the ISA wrapper and so manage their funds more effectively, potentially leading to reduced administration costs for providers and lower account charges for customers in future. Existing PEP investors will also benefit from the wider range of investments available under the ISA, such as stakeholder accounts and insurance.

Schools: Cadets

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 770W, on schools: cadets, which fundraising *(a)* events and *(b)* meetings Rod Aldridge has attended in the last six months as part of his duties. [131370]

Dawn Primarolo: Rod Aldridge engages in fundraising for a wide range of youth volunteering activities through V, but has no specific responsibilities for fundraising for cadets.

Smuggling: Alcoholic Drinks

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value was of untaxed spirits intercepted in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [132149]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs do not record the value of all spirits intercepted. HMRC does estimate the value of each non-UK duty paid spirits seizure however. The total estimated value of spirits seizures made in Northern Ireland during 2005-06 is £13,310. The amount of spirits seized during 2006-07 will be published later this year.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue implications of raising the *(a)* one per cent. stamp duty land tax threshold to £150,000 and three per cent. threshold to £300,000 and *(b)* one per cent. threshold to £200,000 and three per cent. threshold to £350,000; and if he will make a statement. [131118]

Ed Balls: The estimated cost in 2007-08 of raising the residential stamp duty land tax thresholds to levels indicated by *(a)* and *(b)* are given in the following table. The estimates in this table make allowance for expected associated behavioural effects:

	New 1 per cent. starting threshold (£)	*New 3 per cent. starting threshold (£)*	*Cost (£ billion)*
Change *(a)*	150,001	300,001	0.9
Change *(b)*	200,001	350,001	1.8

Tax Thresholds

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue implications of raising the threshold at which people pay income tax and national insurance to £50,000 in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [131839]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost of increasing the higher rate threshold, upper earnings limit and upper profits limit to £50,000 in 2008-09 to 2010-11 can be found in the following table.

	Cost (£ billion)	
	Income tax	*National insurance*
2008-09	5.3	1.9
2009-10	4.3	1.4
2010-11	3.7	1.2

The estimates are based on the 2004-05 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward against an indexed baseline which includes the reforms to simplify the income tax and national insurance system announced at Budget 2007.

The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response to the tax change which could be significant given the scale of the change.

Taxation: Pensions

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on business investment of the abolition of tax credits for pension funds in 1997. [132047]

Ed Balls: The package of business tax reforms announced in the 1997 Budget, including the abolition of payable tax credits, has contributed to a stronger investment climate for UK companies. The investment statistics show this.

In the quarter after the July 1997 Budget, business investment grew by 1¼ per cent. In the quarter after that, it rose by 6.1 per cent., and in the quarter after that, it rose by another 7.1 per cent.

Between the July 1997 Budget and the 1998 Budget, business investment had risen by 16 per cent. This is around three times as fast as it had grown in the run-up to the previous Administration's last Budget in early 1997.

Since 1997, real business investment has risen by 50 per cent.

This year investment growth is forecast to be the fastest in the G7 (according to the OECD).

Whole economy investment has risen in every year since 1997. In the previous 18 years, investment growth was negative over a quarter of this period.

Whistleblowers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have been made to HM Revenue and Customs' policy on whistleblowing; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [129910]

Dawn Primarolo: The essential difference and change between the policies of the former Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise and that of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on "Reporting Concerns" ('whistleblowing') is:

a change of emphasis to positively encourage, as well as enable, genuine reporting. Encouragement to raise concerns is clearer and more explicit;

more prominence, better access and an increase in the number (from 13 to 25) of nominated officers, who provide independent advice and guide staff on these issues, and are appointed by the executive chairman; and

agreed and clearly stated top management commitment, understanding and support.

The stated purpose of the HMRC policy is to encourage and enable those who work for HMRC who have serious concerns of malpractice, wrongdoing or unethical behaviour at work to raise their concerns within the Department without fear of reprisal.

The HMRC policy and guidance has been placed in the Library of the House.

Working Tax Credit: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* claiming working tax credit in Castle Point; [132158]

(2) how many people in Castle Point *(a)* are eligible for and *(b)* receive child tax credit. [132244]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of child and working tax credit take-up rates for 2004-05 are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

Take-up rates at United Kingdom level are shown in table 1. Take-up rates for working families with children at country and regional level are shown in table 9. Take-up rate estimates are not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Estimated numbers of families benefiting from tax credits, by constituency, are available only for in-work families. The average number in 2004-05 of such families with positive awards in each constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards 2004-05 Geographical Analysis". This publication is available on the HMRC website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

Information for 2005-06 awards is due to be published in May 2007.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Big Brother Project

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unemployed single parents took part in the Big Brother project in each of the last two years for which figures are available, broken down by area. [130001]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Big Brother project is a pilot scheme which is intended to help single parents back to work. The project ran in the Hereford and Worcester Jobcentre Plus district (funded by the European Social Fund) from January 2005 to March 2007; in the South Tyne and Wear Valley and Northumbria districts from November 2006 to March 2007 and has been running in the Manchester East and West district since November 2006 with a projected end date of March 2008.

Information on the number of lone parents who have taken part in the Big Brother project is in the following table.

Big Brother Project starts

District	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Hereford and Worcester[1]	11	225	208
Northumbria[2]	—	—	131
South Tyne and Wear[2]	—	—	152
Manchester East and West[3]	—	—	124

[1] Started in January 2005.
[2] Started in November 2006.
[3] Started in November 2006.
Note:
Years are financial rather than calendar years.

Council Tax

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the costs of administering council tax benefit were to *(a)* central government and *(b)* local government in the last financial year for which figures are available. [130184]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Council Tax Benefits: Scotland

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in each of the last three years to fund council tax benefit in Scotland. [130567]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

	CTB subsidy paid to Scottish local authorities (£ million)
2004-05	345
2005-06	354

Notes:
1. Local authorities pay CTB to eligible claimants and central Government funds the payments by way of CTB subsidy paid to the authorities.
2. Benefit which is paid in accordance with CTB rules is subsidised at 100 per cent., but lower rates of subsidy are paid where there has been an overpayment of benefit, caused by, for example, claimant error or fraud.
Source:
Audited subsidy claims submitted to DWP by local authorities.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the levels of (*a*) fraud, (*b*) customer error and (*c*) official error in (i) attendance allowance, (ii) carer's allowance, (iii) basic state pension, (iv) bereavement benefit, (v) industrial injuries benefit, (vi) maternity allowance, (vii) severe disablement allowance, (viii) the Social Fund, (ix) widow's benefit, (x) winter fuel payments, (xi) income support, (xii) incapacity benefit, (xiii) disability living allowance, (xiv) jobseeker's allowance, (xv) housing benefit, (xvi) pension credit and (xvii) council tax benefit in each year since 2001 in (A) percentage terms and (B) cash terms; and if he will make a statement. [137960]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Government are committed to reducing fraud and error across the benefits system, and we are succeeding. For example, fraud across the benefits system was down from around £2 billion (2 per cent. of expenditure) in 2001 to an estimated £0.7 billion (0.6 per cent. of expenditure) by 2005-06. And National Statistics estimate that fraud and error loss in income support and jobseeker's allowance are now at their lowest ever—by March 2006, the amount lost had reduced by around half compared to 1997-98.

Estimates of fraud and error in income support, jobseeker's allowance, pension credit and housing benefit can be found in National Statistics reports, and additional tables on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fraud_error.asp

No estimates are available for attendance allowance, industrial injuries disablement benefit, maternity allowance, winter fuel payments and the social fund.

The available estimates for other benefits are in the tables. These estimates are consistent with the methodology used for those presented for 2003-04 onwards in the Department's resource accounts. For some benefits, estimates before 2003-04 will differ from figures published earlier due to improved assumptions and methodology.

Carer's allowance

	Percentage of overspend	*Overpaid (£ million)*
Fraud	3.9	40
Customer error	1.0	10
Official error	0.6	10

Notes:
1. Carer's allowance is not reviewed regularly. These estimates are based on the assumption that the percentage of expenditure overpaid has remained constant since it was last reviewed in 1996.
2. Estimates are rounded to the nearest £10 million. The totals may appear different from the sum of the components due to this rounding.

State pension

	Fraud		*Customer error*		*Official error*	
	Percentage of overspend	*Overpaid (£ million)*	*Percentage of overspend*	*Overpaid (£ million)*	*Percentage of overspend*	*Overpaid (£ million)*
2001-02	0.1	30	0.0	0	0.1	40
2002-03	0.1	30	0.0	0	0.0	10
2003-04	0.1	30	0.0	0	0.1	20
2004-05	0.1	30	0.0	0	0.1	30
2005-06	0.0	0	0.1	40	0.1	30

Notes:
1. These estimates are for state pension as a whole. Separate estimates for basic state pension are not available.
2. Fraud and customer error figures up to 2004-05 are based on the assumption that the level of fraud and error in state pension had not changed since it was reviewed in 1995.
3. Fraud and customer error estimates for 2005-06 are taken from the 2005-06 National Benefit Review pilot exercise.
4. All official error estimates are derived from annual measurement of official error for the relevant year.
5. Estimates are rounded to the nearest 0.1 per cent. or £10 million. Figures of 0.0 per cent. or £0 million indicate an estimate of less than 0.05 per cent. or £5 million respectively. The totals may appear different from the sum of the components due to this rounding.

Bereavement benefit and widow's benefits

	Official error	
	Percentage of overspend	*Overpaid (£ million)*
2001-02	0.7	8
2002-03	0.3	3
2003-04	0.2	2
2004-05	0.0	<1
2005-06	1.1	10

Notes:
1. For bereavement benefits and widow's benefits, only official error has been measured.
2. The estimates are based on very small samples. The results for BB and WB cannot be separated, and are subject to a large degree of statistical uncertainty.

Severe disablement allowance

	Official error	
	Percentage of overspend	*Overpaid (£ million)*
2001-02	1.1	11
2002-03	0.4	4
2003-04	0.2	2
2004-05	0.5	5

Note:
For severe disablement allowance, only official error has been measured, and only from 2001-02 to 2004-05.

Incapacity benefit

It is important to note that changes were made to the identification of error in 2004-05. This led to the inclusion of types of official error, valued at an estimated £20 million, which were not previously captured by the sampling.

	Fraud		Customer error		Official error	
	Percentage of overspend	Overpaid (£ million)	Percentage of overspend	Overpaid (£ million)	Percentage of overspend	Overpaid (£ million)
2001-02	0.1	10	0.2	20	0.5	30
2002-03	0.1	10	0.2	20	0.6	40
2003-04	0.1	10	0.2	20	0.8	50
2004-05	0.1	10	0.2	20	1.5	100
2005-06	0.1	10	0.2	20	1.3	90

Notes:
1. Fraud and error in incapacity benefit is not measured every year. The last full review was in 2000-01. As there has been no measurement in other years, it is assumed that the percentage level of fraud and customer error have remained constant. All of the fraud and customer error estimates are calculated by applying the percentage overpaid in 2000-01 to the annual expenditure on incapacity benefit.
2. Official error in incapacity benefit has been measured in every year since 2000-01.
3. The official error estimates for 2004-05 and 2005-06 differ from those published in the relevant departmental resource accounts, as up-to-date estimates were not available at the time.
4. As the measurement system is based on the examination of a sample of the incapacity benefit case load, the estimates are subject to a degree of statistical uncertainty. For example, the central estimate of official error in 2005-06 is £90 million, but the range in which we can be 95 per cent. sure that the true value lies runs from £70 million to £120 million.

Disability living allowance

	Fraud		Customer error		Official error	
	Percentage of overspend	Overpaid (£ million)	Percentage of overspend	Overpaid (£ million)	Percentage of overspend	Overpaid (£ million)
2001-02	0.5	30	0.6	40	0.7	50
2002-03	0.5	30	0.6	40	0.7	50
2003-04	0.5	40	0.6	50	0.7	60
2004-05	0.5	40	0.6	50	0.7	60
2005-06	0.5	40	0.6	50	0.7	60

Notes:
1. DLA was last reviewed in 2005. Estimates for 2003-04 onwards, as presented in the Department's resource accounts are based on the assumption that the proportion of expenditure overpaid has not changed.
2. The 2004-05 DLA National Benefit Review identified cases where the change in customer's needs has been so gradual that it would be unreasonable to expect them to know at which point their entitlement to DLA might have changed. These cases do not result in a recoverable overpayment as we cannot quantify or define when the customer's change occurred. Because legislation requires the Secretary of State to prove that entitlement to DLA is incorrect, rather than requiring the customer to inform us that their needs have changed, cases in this subcategory are legally correct. The difference between what claimants in these cases are receiving in DLA and what they would receive if their benefit was reassessed is estimated to be around £600 million a year.
3. Estimates are rounded to the nearest 0.1 per cent. or £10 million. The totals may appear different from the sum of the components due to this rounding.

Council tax benefit

	Fraud		Customer error		Official error	
	Percentage of overspend	Overpaid (£ million)	Percentage of overspend	Overpaid (£ million)	Percentage of overspend	Overpaid (£ million)
2002-03	1.9	50	1.9	50	1.1	30
2003-04	1.4	40	2.3	70	1.2	40
2004-05	1.3	50	2.7	100	1.0	40
2005-06	1.0	40	3.1	120	1.3	50

Note:
Fraud and error in council tax benefit is not directly measured. As council tax benefit is similar to housing benefit in both regulations and administration, it is assumed that the proportion of expenditure overpaid is the same as for housing benefit.

Social Security Benefits: Acton and Harrow

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff from the Acton and Harrow transitional offices in *(a)* clerical and *(b)* executive grades will be unable to move to benefit delivery centres due to living outside the daily travelling distance; and what measures have been put in place to minimise the resultant skills gap. [131210]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 18 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff from the Acton and Harrow transitional offices will be unable to move to Benefit Delivery Centres due to living outside the daily travelling distance, and what measures have been put in place to minimise the resultant skills gap. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are 25 clerical staff (14 from Acton and 11 from Harrow) and 8 executive grade staff (4 from Acton and 4 from Harrow) who are unable to be redeployed to a Benefit Delivery Centre. Our aim is to redeploy all these staff within Jobcentre Plus, the Department for Work and Pensions or another Government Department. We are currently working with those affected to find suitable redeployment opportunities.

The Benefit Delivery Centres are manned by experienced staff from across London. These staff have become available as local benefit processing sites have been closed as part of the Jobcentre Plus roll-out process. In addition the movement of work takes into account any training needs these staff may have, to enable us to have training in place to support the migration.

I hope this is helpful.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of fraudulent applications for benefits in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [132089]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 19 April 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Compensation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures her Department is taking to discourage the compensation culture and promote sensible risk management. [130819]

Mr. Woolas: This Department is represented on the cross-government Ministerial Steering group which is promoting sensible risk management as part of its work on tackling perceptions of a compensation culture. Officials are working with colleagues from the Department for Constitutional Affairs, Local Government Employers, and the Health and Safety Executive, on a workshop "Risk and Redress—The way Forward for Local Government", which will look at approaches to managing risk sensibly. The workshop will involve local government stakeholders.

In addition the Department is taking a number of specific steps to promote good risk management. The Department will shortly bring forward revised guidance under the How To programme, which aims to raise the quality of town centres, residential areas, and parks and green spaces by encouraging and supporting a climate of good practice. The new guidance will provide advice on how local managers of the public realm, and parks in particular, should assess and manage risk and the perception of risk.

The Department has also tasked the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) with undertaking research and producing good practice guidance on how risk affects the design and management of the public realm. This work will be disseminated in partnership with other relevant organisations later this year.

Councillors: Conflict of Interests

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether restrictions may be imposed upon local councillors to prevent them taking part in public debate on land sale decisions by local authorities. [130212]

Mr. Woolas: There is no legislation preventing local councillors from discussing issues of concern with their constituents or other members of the public. However, in any such discussion about matters such as a land sale, councillors, if they are to be involved in the final decision, must avoid giving the impression of having a predetermined view, or otherwise risk that decision being challenged in the courts. It is a matter for each member to ensure that, in the circumstances of particular cases, such an impression is not given. Members may wish to seek advice on their position from their authority's monitoring officer. The Local Government Association has published guidance on avoiding predetermination in "Probity in Planning: The role of councillors and Officers".

Departmental Travel

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers of 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 172W, and 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1352W, on departmental travel, what the costs were of the staff trips to *(a)* the Far East and *(b)* North America. [129431]

Ruth Kelly: The cost of staff trips to the Far East and North America during this period were £23,664 and £43,544 respectively.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1353W, on Home Information Packs, what the timetable is for producing the new estimated costs in the revised regulatory impact assessment. [129458]

Ruth Kelly: A regulatory impact assessment was published alongside the Home Information Pack regulations, which were laid before Parliament on 29 March 2007.

Housing: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* families were in housing need in Castle Point in each of the last 10 years. [132246]

Mr. Woolas: The Department does not make estimates of housing need as any such estimates would be unlikely to adequately reflect the diversity of needs and priorities at the local level. Instead local authorities are required to assess housing need assessments as part of their Strategic Local Housing Market Assessments.

The Department has a variety of strategies for addressing housing need, including concentrating efforts and resources on homelessness prevention activities, increasing investment in the provision of new social housing and improving the stock of existing social housing through the Decent Homes programme.

Housing: Flood Control

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the acreage of land prone to flooding which will be developed with housing during the next five years. [132366]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1419W.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what effect her Department expects the Code for Sustainable Homes to have on environmental performance. [132374]

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what effect her Department expects the Code for Sustainable Housing to have on environmental performance. [132354]

Angela E. Smith: The Code for Sustainable Homes (the Code) came into effect in the beginning of April 2007 as a voluntary assessment and rating system. All homes built with Housing Corporation and Communities and Local Government housing growth programme funding, and all housing developed by English Partnerships will be built to Code Level 3 from April 2008. These new homes will be 25 per cent. more energy efficient than current Building Regulations, use less water than the average home and have an improved environmental performance overall. In the longer term it is expected that the Code will drive up environmental performance of new homes.

IPPR

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Commission for Racial Equality provided to *(a)* the IPPR and *(b)* IPPR Trading Ltd in each year since May 1997; and for what purpose. [125716]

Ruth Kelly: The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) has provided funding as follows:

Body	*Year*	*Amount (£)*	*Purpose*
IPPR	2002-03	6,525	Donation in support of a Delivering Race Equality in the Public Sector event; and for a Race and Governance Project (to cover extra administrative support to organise the event, catering and publication).
IPPR	2003-04	5,875	Sponsorship of an IPPR fringe event at the 2003 Labour Party conference, which covered a lunch time public debate.
IPPR Trading Ltd	2006-07	28,350	Research and policy work on new migration and conflict resolution.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department, and its predecessor, provided to *(a)* the IPPR and *(b)* IPPR Trading Ltd in each year since 2002; and for what purpose. [125717]

Ruth Kelly: The following table sets out the expenditure incurred by the Department and, prior to May 2006, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, on the procurement of goods and services from the IPPR and IPPR Trading Ltd in each year since 2002.

Financial year	*IPPR (£)*	*IPPR Trading Ltd (£)*	*Service*
2002-03	0	0	—
2003-04	74,385	0	Policy and research work for the Social Exclusion Unit
2004-05	18,148	0	Policy and research work for the Social Exclusion Unit
2005-06	27,917	19,153	Policy and research work for the National Community Forum on community participation
2006-07 (to date)	44,806	4,935	Policy and research work for the National Community Forum on community participation and cities
Total	165,256	24,088	

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Housing Corporation has provided to *(a)* the IPPR and *(b)* IPPR Trading Ltd in each year since May 1997; and for what purpose. [125736]

Ruth Kelly: The Housing Corporation is a non-departmental public body funded by Communities and Local Government. Through its innovation and good practice grants programme, which aims to facilitate the development of innovative approaches and promote good practice in the housing sector, the Corporation has provided the following grant to IPPR Trading Ltd. (Institute for Public Policy Research Trading Ltd.). All payments were given as grants and are VAT inclusive.

		£
31 May 1999 to 31 May 2000	Holding Policy Forums, Interim	10,000
1 June 2000 to 31 May 2001	Holding Policy Forums, Final	10,000
31 May 2002 to 31 May 2003	"A New Regional Policy for the UK", Interim	10,000
	"Not for Profit Public/Private Partnership"	40,000
1 June 2003 to 31 May 2004	"Home Ownership Task Force Report", Final	11,500
	"A New Regional Policy for the UK"	10,000
31 May 2005 to 31 May 2006	"HA tenants attitude to tenure", Interim	5,875
1 June 2006 to 31 May 2007 (to date)	"HA tenants attitude to tenure", Final	5,875

The Housing Corporation has not provided any funding to IPPR.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding English Partnerships has provided to *(a)* the IPPR and *(b)* IPPR Trading Ltd in each year since May 1997; and for what purpose. [125738]

Ruth Kelly: English Partnerships is a non-departmental public body funded by Communities and Local Government.

English Partnerships has made the following payments to the Institute for Public Policy Research:

May 2005—£20,000 for research into sustainable communities growth areas;

December 2006—£6,500 for mixed income communities project;

January 2007—£6,000 for mixed income communities project (second instalment).

No payments have been made to IPPR Trading Ltd.

Local Government: Reform

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what basis she took the decision to implement no more than eight proposals for local government restructuring; and what *(a)* research and *(b)* consultation her Department undertook in relation to that decision. [129759]

Ruth Kelly: A decision has not been taken to implement no more than eight proposals for local government restructuring. We are now consulting on the proposals which in our judgment deliver the outcomes specified in our "Invitation to Councils". We will take final decisions following consultation. Proposals will proceed to implementation if, and only if, when we take our final decisions, we remain satisfied that they meet the criteria, and that the overall use of reserves is affordable, having regard to the prevailing fiscal position and risk around the costs of implementation.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the presence of *(a)* solar panels and *(b)* small-scale wind turbines is taken into account by the Valuation Office Agency when assessing the rateable value of a business premises for business rates purposes. [129202]

Mr. Woolas: Both solar panels and wind turbines (of whatever size) are named items in Table 1 to Class 1 of the Schedule to the Valuation for Rating (Plant and Machinery) (England) Regulations 2000 [SI 2000 No. 540]. As such the Valuation Office Agency is required to take the presence of such plant into account when assessing the rateable value of business premises. The question as to whether the presence of such plant is likely to have a significant impact, or any effect at all, upon the rateable value of a particular property is a valuation matter which will depend upon the facts in each case.

Unitary Councils

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of the establishment of unitary authorities were all 16 bids to be approved. [131165]

Mr. Woolas: The 16 unitary proposals, now subject to consultation, cover 13 areas, for three of which there are two alternative proposals. Each proposal contains a detailed financial analysis of costs and savings which show that if unitary structures were implemented in all 13 areas the costs would range from some £190 million to £200 million depending on the alternative chosen.

Valuation Office

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Valuation Office Agency has to amend the type or number of *(a)* dwelling house and *(b)* value significant codes. [128544]

Mr. Woolas: None.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Bailiffs: Certification

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what guidance she has issued on the disclosure by local authorities of the terms of contracts with bailiffs for the enforcement of debt and collection of arrears under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to *(a)* greater transparency and *(b)* specific requests. [130860]

Vera Baird: My Department has not issued any guidance to local authorities on this issue.

Census: Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many applications for Freedom of Information Act access to extracts from the 1911 Census were received by the National Archives *(a)* between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2006 and *(b)* between 1 January and 31 March 2007; and how many of those applications were successful in each period. [131973]

Vera Baird: The National Archives received 264 requests for information from the 1911 census under the Freedom of Information Act between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2006, none of which were successful and 456 requests for information from the 1911 census under the Freedom of Information Act between 1 January 2007 and 31 March 2007 of which 424 have been successful.

Employment Tribunals Service

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights of the practice of employment tribunals in discrimination cases of placing the burden of proof on employers to prove there has been no breach of the principle of equal treatment. [125887]

Vera Baird: The UK introduced provisions to reverse the burden of proof in domestic discrimination cases (where a prima facie case has been established) to implement its obligations under the Burden of Proof Directive (97/80/EC), as extended to the UK by Directive (98/52/EC), the Race Directive (2000/43/EC) and the Framework Directive (2000/78/EC). These provisions apply only when a claimant has proved, at a hearing, facts from which the tribunal or court could conclude that an act of discrimination had taken place. In such circumstances, the respondent is required to prove that he did not commit an unlawful act.

The UK implemented the above provisions with respect to sex discrimination cases by way of the Sex Discrimination (Indirect Discrimination and Burden of Proof) Regulations 2001 SI 2001/2660. The provisions with respect to Race Discrimination were implemented by means of the Race Relations Act 1976 (Amendment) Regulations 2003 SI 2003/1626 (regs. 41 and 43).

The Government informed Parliament at the time that each set of regulations was compatible with the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms as incorporated in the Human Rights Act 1998.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 113-14W, on freedom of information, if she will publish in full all responses to the consultation on the draft Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007; and when her Department expects to make public the responses to the consultation. [130843]

Vera Baird: On 29 March 2007 my Department issued a supplementary paper to the consultation on draft Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007. Responses to the supplementary paper and any further comments on the draft regulations contained in the consultation paper are invited by 21 June 2007. We will publish the responses to both papers within three months of this date.

Legal Aid Scheme

Anne Milton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people had charges levied by the Legal Services Commission on their property in respect of legal aid they had received in each year since 2001; and how frequently such people were sent statements of the initial value of the charge and the interest accrued. [131992]

Vera Baird: The number of new registrations of land charges securing civil debts recorded by the Legal Services Commission since 2001 are:

	Number
2001-02	6,833
2002-03	5,846
2003-04	4,649
2004-05	4,943
2005-06	5,004
2006-07	3,989

Owing to changes to the system for managing the production of statutory charge statements, the Commission is unable to provide information on their frequency pre-2003. From September 2004, the Commission has, where possible, sent clients an automated statement annually.

In line with the LSC's corporate target for 2006-07, by 31 March 2007 all customers that had an LSC registered charge against their property had been sent a statement informing them of their liability.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by her Department. [132206]

Mr. Lammy: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport the Gifts and Hospitality Guidance stipulates that any claims for alcoholic beverages with lunch/dinner must be limited to a half a bottle of wine per person. Claims for alcoholic drinks at any other time must have the Group Director's approval. The monetary value of the overall lunch/dinner is subject to a limit of £30 per head.

Gambling: Advertising

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much her Department has allocated to spending on advertising the dangers of problem gambling ahead of the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005. [131974]

Mr. Caborn: The Responsibility in Gambling Trust is currently developing a strategy for a national public awareness campaign to include signposting to help and information on responsible gambling.

The Trust has already funded an awareness campaign aimed at young people. The campaign is currently being rolled out to schools and youth clubs through children's charity Tacade.

Gambling: Orders and Regulations

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the Orders under the Gambling Act 2005 that have yet to be laid before Parliament; and what her Department's planned timetable is for doing so. [132229]

Mr. Caborn: The following table sets out which subordinate legislation making powers the Department currently expects to be exercised under the Gambling Act 2005, and the provisional dates by which relevant Statutory Instruments are currently expected to be laid.

Number	Provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 under which powers to be exercised	Description	Planned date for laying
1	Sections 7(5), (6), and (7)	To define the categories of casino	May 2007
2	Section 236	To define the four classes of gaming machine (A -D)	May 2007
3	Section 235(3)(f)	To define "domestic computer" and "dual use computer" for the purposes of the definition of a "gaming machine"	June 2007
4	Sections 266(2), 267(2), and Schedule 12, paragraph 10(3)	To prescribe types of gaming clubs which are to fall within the definitions of "members' club" and "commercial club" for the purposes of Part 12, and which are prescribed for the purposes of fast-track applications for a club gaming or club machine permit	June 2007
5	Section 271(3)	To specify types of unequal chance gaming authorised by club gaming permits	June 2007
6	Section 282(2)(b)	To prescribe the notification fee for an automatic entitlement to two gaming machines in alcohol licensed premises	June 2007
7	Schedule 13, paragraphs 2(e), 7(1), 7(2), 9,11(2)	To prescribe the form of licensed premises gaming machine permits; to prescribe the application fee and various other fees in connection with the permits; to prescribe other matters relating to the permits	June 2007
8	Sections 269(2) and (4)	To specify conditions for exempt gaming in clubs	June 2007
9	Section 279(2)	To specify conditions for exempt gaming in alcohol licensed premises	June 2007
10	Section 78	To prescribe the Secretary of State's conditions to be attached to operating licences	June 2007
11	Section 235(2)(d)	To set out the minimum time interval for the announcement of results by a lottery ticket vending machine	June 2007
12	Sections 293(2) and (4)	To prescribe conditions for prize gaming	July 2007
13	Schedule 12, paragraphs 2, 3(1), 4, 10 and (4), 11(1), 14, 15(2), 16(2).	To prescribe various matters with respect to applications for club gaming and club machine permits; to prescribe the form of the permits; to prescribe various fees and other matters	July 2007
14	Sections197, 200, and 203	To prescribe the forms and manner for applications for a review of a premises licence	July 2007
15	Section 215	To prescribe the activities for which a temporary use notice may be sought, the form, content and fee for a temporary use notice	July 2007
16	Section 33 1(4)	To specify a country or place to be treated as if it were an EEA State for purposes of section 331(1), prohibiting the advertising of foreign gambling	July 2007
17	Sections 216, 219, 224 and 227	To prescribe the form and content of a temporary use notice, and counter-notice, and to prescribe the fee for a temporary use notice	July 2007
18	Sections 300(4) and (5)	To prescribe conditions for non-commercial equal-chance gaming	July 2007
19	Schedule 11, paragraphs 3 and 4	To prescribe the limits on deductions in respect of costs of prizes and costs incurred in organising exempt lotteries	August 2007
20	Schedule 11, paragraphs 42, 44, 46 and 54	To prescribe the application form, fees and other matters in relation to the registration of non commercial societies	August 2007
21	Section 240	Regulations controlling the operation of gaming machines	August 2007
22	Section 241	Regulations controlling the supply and installation of gaming machines	August 2007
23	Section 235(5)	To make provision for a single piece of apparatus to constitute more than one gaming machine	August 2007
24	Schedule 9, paragraph 2	Regulations concerning the publication of invitations for competing casino applications and the timing of responses	[1]
25	Section 175(4)	To determine the geographical distribution of casino premises licences	[1]
26	Section 172(6)	To define 'gaming table' for the purposes of the machine to gaming table ratio in subsections (3) to (5) of section 172.	[1]
27	Sections 358(4) to (6)	Transitional provisions for the Tote and Levy	[1]

[1] Date to be decided.

Gaming Machines: Regulation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what her Department's most recent estimate is of the costs to industry of complying with the gaming machine regulations to be made in accordance with sections 240 and 241 of the Gambling Act 2005 and the new machine technical standards; [132217]

(2) what representations her Department has received from industry regarding the lead times necessary to convert existing machines and to build new machines to comply with the new technical standards required under the Gambling Act 2005 and the new gaming machine regulations to achieve the planned implementation date of 1 September; and if she will make a statement. [132230]

Mr. Caborn: The Department is consulting industry and other groups on proposals under sections 240 and 241 of the Gambling Act 2005, including on potential compliance costs and lead times, and within the context of the licensing objectives to keep gambling crime free, to make sure that gambling is fair and open and to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm. In the course of doing so the Department has received written representations from a number of organisations.

The proposals have been drafted to ensure that the vast majority of gaming machines as defined by Part III of the Gaming Act 1968 will comply with the regulations at minimum cost.

The Gambling Commission is responsible for setting gaming machine technical standards and is currently engaged in a similar consultation process with the industry.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to lay before Parliament the statutory instrument implementing the gaming machine regulations to be made under sections 240 and 241 of the Gambling Act 2005. [132228]

Mr. Caborn: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is currently consulting with industry and other groups on draft proposals under sections 240 and 241 of the Gambling Act 2005 and currently expects to lay the relevant statutory instruments in August 2007.

Sports: EC Countries

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the progress of the European Sports Review. [132613]

Mr. Caborn: The Independent European Sport Review was instigated under the UK Presidency following the expression of concerns about the state of football by both UEFA and FIFA. The Review, conducted by an independent review team, undertook an examination of the challenges to the future stability and success of the game posed by commercialisation and the place of sport within the wider EU legal framework. Its publication in final form in October has triggered a wide-ranging debate both within sport and at EU level.

The Review contains recommendations aimed at football's governing bodies, the European Commission and member states. Sport is autonomous and much of the responsibility for taking forward the issues raised lies with sport itself. It is for football to agree what it wants to achieve, develop more detailed proposals and engage with the political authorities. My Department has been encouraging this process and there is a well developed debate taking place among the numerous clubs, leagues and governing bodies across Europe.

UEFA has made good progress and already implemented a range of the Review's recommendations aimed at it. These include putting in place a new Strategic Council to involve clubs, leagues and players in top-level decision-making, a range of enhancements to its Club Licensing system, the launch of a feasibility study into a European Supporters Direct, based on the highly successful UK model, and enhancement of anti-racism disciplinary measures.

The key issue the Review raises for the Commission and member states is how the 2000 Nice Declaration can be effectively implemented to ensure the special nature of Sport is recognised in policy-making and in the application of EU rules. Doing so will help overcome the current uncertainty facing those involved in the game and help enable them to find the right balance between its commercial and sporting sides.

The UK has been working closely with the Commission and other member states to take this forward. The Commission will publish a White Paper on Sport this summer that will address this issue and respond to the Review's recommendations aimed at it. I would like to see this set out clearly how the Commission plans to "sports-proof" its decision-making and thus fulfil the commitments made in the Nice Declaration. I strongly welcome indications that it will also recommend the development of an ongoing structured dialogue between sport and the EU aimed at finding a way forward on the kind of issues raised by the Review.

There is widespread support across Europe to help sport tackle the challenges facing it. The European Parliament issued a Report on the future of Professional Sport on 28 March (the Belet Report) which welcomes the Review and asks the Commission to establish an action plan based upon its recommendations. The Council of Europe has, at the UK's instigation, agreed to consider the issues raised by the Review as part of its new Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport.

The Review is one of a number of recent initiatives that have acted as a catalyst to the wider debate that has been going on in football, and other sports, about where the right balance between its commercial and sporting sides lies and how it can best secure its future stability and success within the wider EU framework. I look forward to the Commission's White Paper as the next key milestone in taking forward the debate on how the political level can help football, and sport more widely, to achieve this within the wider EU framework.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has

received from *(a)* the Premier League and *(b)* individual Premier League clubs on the European Sports Review. [132614]

Mr. Caborn: Regular discussions have taken place around the issues raised by the Independent European Sports Review with a wide range of professional sports stakeholders. The review covers a substantial number of subject areas that have long been of interest to professional sports and therefore regularly forms part of the backdrop to discussions and correspondence on a variety of issues.

There has been an ongoing dialogue with the Premier League since the review's publication. The Premier League, along with other stakeholders, were invited to set out their thoughts on the review in writing following its publication and took this opportunity to present a written submission to me. I have subsequently met the chief executive and chairman of the League on a number of occasions and recently attended a meeting of Premier League chairs, at which individual clubs had the opportunity to put forward their views and engage in the debate.

Following an earlier invitation to all Premier League clubs to do so, Sheffield United, Wigan, Charlton and Everton have all written to me setting out their thoughts on the review.

Television: Telephone Services

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures her Department plans to take to ensure transparency in the conduct of those television operators employing telephone voting in their programme; and if she will assess the merits of introducing a code of conduct for such operators. [131822]

Mr. Woodward: Responsibility for regulation rests with the independent regulators, Ofcom and ICSTIS. Following a consultation with broadcasters ICSTIS has set out a range of actions to restore public trust. This includes introducing a licensing regime for all premium rate service providers, operating participation TV services. Ofcom has also recently announced an inquiry into the compliance of broadcasters.

Written Questions

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she will reply to question numbers 129383 and 129384, on expenditure on the 2012 Olympics, tabled by the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid Kent on 20 March. [132657]

Tessa Jowell: I can confirm that the questions referred to were answered on 18 April.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Council Tax

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress on discussions between his Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government on council tax exemption for members of the armed forces serving overseas. [132443]

Derek Twigg: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 130W, to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper).

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether current *(a)* commitments and *(b)* planning assumptions include capacity for urgent operations in (i) the UK and (ii) overseas. [131092]

Des Browne: The Joint Rapid Reaction Force comprises force elements available at very short notice for rapid commitment to overseas operations.

The MOD also maintains the ability to support the Home Office and the police, who have the lead responsibility for security in the UK through the provision of air defence and other specialist capabilities, such as explosive ordnance disposal.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how frequently the quality of single living accommodation is reviewed for the purposes of assessing grade for charge; how this process is performed; and if he will make a statement. [128187]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 March 2007]*: The assessment of all Defence accommodation is undertaken by grading boards consisting of a mixture of service officers and technical experts. The process of grading involves assigning deficiency points against a predefined checklist of assessment criteria. The number of deficiency points awarded, if any, then determines the grade for charge, on a scale of one to four, and hence the level of accommodation charge. Normally accommodation is graded on a four year rolling programme. A grading board may also convene on completion of a refurbishment or if the grade for charge is challenged by the occupant shortly after move in.

Armed Forces: South Africa

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to take steps to enable South Africans serving in the British armed forces to be offered British citizenship. [131703]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: We are currently looking at a range of options for personnel should the South African Prohibition of Mercenary Activities and Prohibition and Regulation of Certain Activities in Areas of Armed Conflict Bill be enacted so that we can support those who may be affected.

Under current rules eligible South Africans serving in the British armed forces can apply for British citizenship if they have been resident in the UK for a five year period, or three years if married or in a civil partnership to a British citizen. Service in the armed forces, at home and abroad, counts towards the residential qualifying period.

Active engagement with the South African Department of Defence is on-going and we hope to secure a date for the officials' visit at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of the South African Prohibition of Mercenary Activities and Prohibition and Regulation of Certain Activities in Areas of Armed Conflict Bill on the ability of South African personnel *(a)* to serve in and *(b)* to deploy with the British armed forces. [131712]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The proposed Bill, if enacted as currently drafted, would mean that South African personnel would need to apply for permission to serve in a foreign armed force, but that such permission would lapse if the person to whom it has been granted takes part in an armed conflict.

We are urgently investigating the potential consequences for South African personnel currently serving in the UK armed forces, should the legislation be enacted, so that we can support those who may be affected.

Bombs

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the failed destruct rate is of smart cluster bombs; and if he will make a statement. [131398]

Mr. Ingram: There have been a number of trials of the 155mm L20A1 extended range bomblet shell, which contains M85 bomblets. When the totality of test and acceptance firings is analysed over the life of the munition, the average bomblet failure rate is approximately 2 per cent. As part of its ongoing quality and performance regime the MOD continues to actively monitor the performance of this system and explore ways of reducing the failure rate still further in partnership with the supplier.

Iraq: Detainees

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is still official practice to hood and handcuff Iraqi prisoners and to make them adopt the stress position; and if he will make a statement. [132414]

Des Browne: UK forces are expressly forbidden from hooding any prisoners or making them adopt stress positions under any circumstances. During the transit of prisoners, however, the use of blindfolding (usually with blacked out goggles) is permitted when necessary to prevent compromise of operational security or the safety of detainees through identification by other detainees. Handcuffing of prisoners is permitted when necessary to prevent escape and for the protection of UK troops and/or other detainees.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Territorial Army *(a)* were killed and *(b)* were injured in action in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each of the last five years. [131633]

Derek Twigg: The number of Territorial Army personnel killed and wounded in action (WIA)[1] in Iraq and Afghanistan in each of the last five years is as follow:

[1] Prior to 2005 the WIA statistics may not contain all instances of the lowest severity (unlisted) classification of injury.

	Iraq		*Afghanistan*	
	Deaths	*WIA*	*Deaths*	*WIA*
2002	0	0	0	0
2003	4	2	0	0
2004	0	5	1	2
2005	1	2	0	0
2006	0	4	0	1

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Basic Skills

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many adults in each *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* Learning and Skills Council area have gained basic skills as a result of the Skills for Life programme. [131157]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the total number of adults (aged 19 and above) achieving at least one Skills for Life/basic skills learning aim in the period August 2005 to July 2006 by Local Learning and Skills Council (LSC) area. (It is important to note that many learners achieve more than one SFL aim and these data are not discounted for repeat learners.) These data are not currently available by parliamentary constituency.

Local LSC	*Adult learners achievement of Skills for Life/basic skills learning aims (Thousand)*
Bedfordshire and Luton	10
Berkshire	11
Birmingham and Solihull	21
Black Country	13
Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole	6
Cambridgeshire	9
Cheshire and Warrington	8
County Durham	5
Coventry and Warwickshire	8
Cumbria	5
Derbyshire	5
Devon and Cornwall	17
Essex	11
Gloucestershire	6
Greater Manchester	32
Greater Merseyside	22
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	15
Hereford and Worcestershire LSC	4
Hertfordshire	5
Humberside	11
Kent and Medway	9
Lancashire	12
Leicestershire	12
Lincolnshire and Rutland	6

Local LSC	Adult learners achievement of Skills for Life/basic skills learning aims (Thousand)
London Central	26
London East	29
London North	12
London South	10
London West	17
Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire	10
National Employer Service	28
Norfolk	6
North Yorkshire	4
Northamptonshire	5
Northumberland	2
Nottinghamshire	13
Shropshire	2
Somerset	4
South Yorkshire	13
Staffordshire	8
Suffolk	8
Surrey	6
Sussex	13
Tees Valley	8
Tyne and Wear	18
West of England	10
West Yorkshire	20
Wiltshire and Swindon	5
Total	539

Source:
LSC's Individual Learner Record (ILR) and Employer Training Pilots (ETP) databases, October 2007 estimates.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the budget for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service is for each of the next three years; and what it was for each of the last three years. [132119]

Mr. Dhanda: At a time of budget restrictions the Government have maintained the budget for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) and it was increased to £106,698,000 (net of receipts) in 2007-08. The CAFCASS budget for future years has not yet been finalised. The resource budgets in previous years are as follows:

	£
2006-07	106,003,000
2005-06	[1]107,000,000
2004-05	[1]107,000,000

[1] Includes the budget for CAFCASS Cymru

These are the latest agreed budgets for each year and some include increases for specific activity in that year.

Classroom Assistants: Qualifications

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the minimum qualification requirements are for learning support assistants. [132579]

Jim Knight: There are no general minimum qualification requirements for learning support/ teaching assistants in schools. It is for schools to determine the suitability of individual candidates for posts. However, there are a range of qualifications and professional standards that support staff can undertake to develop their depth of skills and abilities. These range from bespoke Vocational Qualifications (VQ) such as the Support Work in Schools VQ, through to Level 2 and 3 National Vocational Qualifications and the professional standards for Higher Level Teaching Assistants.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much was spent by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on the key stage 3 and 4 review supplement in *The Guardian* newspaper on 3 April; [132232]

(2) which employees within the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority contributed to the key stage 3 and 4 review supplement in *The Guardian* newspaper on 3 April; [132233]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of the brief the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority agreed with Guardian Professional in relation to the key stage 3 and 4 review supplement in *The Guardian* newspaper on 3 April. [132234]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority spent £66,975 (including VAT) on *The Guardian*, 'Freedom to Learn' supplement on 3 April. The sponsored supplement package included the hardcopy format (editorial, design and print) and an online version, with web chat facilities. Part of QCA's role is to communicate curriculum changes effectively to teachers, head teachers, and the wider subject community.

Those from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority who contributed to the supplement were the Director of Curriculum, the Head of Curriculum Development, members of the Curriculum Development Team and members of the Communications and Marketing Division.

A copy of the brief agreed with Guardian Professional for the 3 April is to be placed in the House Library.

Education: Sight Impaired

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what strategies are in place to increase the availability of approved educational materials that are accessible for the visually impaired; [131994]

(2) what assistance his Department *(a)* provides and *(b)* plans to provide to increase the availability of educational materials to the visually impaired; [131995]

(3) what funding his Department provides for educational resources that are accessible to visually impaired schoolchildren; [131996]

(4) what discussions he has had with educational publishers on increasing the availability of educational materials available in formats more accessible by those with disabilities. [131997]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's SEN Strategy "Removing Barriers to Achievement" sets out our vision for giving children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities the opportunity to succeed. Provision for children with SEN and disabilities, including support for those with a visual impairment is made by schools and local authorities through the SEN and disability frameworks.

In particular Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requires schools and local authorities to plan to improve access to the curriculum and written materials for disabled pupils over time. Additionally the new Disability Equality Duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 requires all public bodies including schools and local authorities to promote disability equality more widely. We also continue to invest significant resources to support the education of children with SEN and disabilities, some £4.5 billion in 2006/07.

To assist the provision of materials in accessible alternative formats for children with a visual impairment, the Government supported the Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act 2002 which reduces delays in gaining copyright clearance to produce books and other printed materials in formats accessible to visually impaired people. The Department of Trade and Industry is also working on a feasibility study to look at opportunities for publishers to provide education material in accessible formats more quickly and the Department for Education and Skills is involved in the process.

Foster Care: Vetting

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what Criminal Records Bureau checks take place before someone can qualify as a foster parent; and what criteria are used to determine a person's suitability for fostering following such checks. [131998]

Mr. Dhanda: The approvals process for prospective foster carers is set out in the Fostering Services Regulations 2002. Paragraph 13 of schedule 3 of the regulations requires that, before any person can be approved as a foster parent, an enhanced disclosure check must be obtained. Adult members of the prospective foster carer's household are subject to a standard disclosure check.

In assessing any person whom it considers may be suitable to become a foster carer, the fostering service provider is required to obtain the range of information prescribed in schedule 3 of the regulations as well as any other information it considers appropriate. On the basis of this information, the fostering service provider is required to prepare a written report which is referred to the fostering panel for consideration; the fostering panel then makes its own recommendation about the individual's suitability to foster. The final decision is made, taking into account this recommendation, by the fostering service provider. Subject to paragraph 27(6), a person would automatically be considered unsuitable to become a foster carer if he/she, or any other adult member of the household, had committed a specified offence under the terms of the regulations. If this is not the case, the decision as to whether or not to approve an individual as a foster carer is made by the fostering service provider in line with the process outlined above.

Further Education: Standards

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many times the power to intervene in further education colleges under section 57 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 was exercised in each year since 1997; and what the circumstances were of each intervention. [133089]

Bill Rammell: The Department's records indicate that the powers under section 57 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 have never been used except where, following the resignation of the governing body, the Secretary of State has been required to appoint new governors. We consider that the existence of these powers does contribute to better outcomes in resolving cases where institutions get into difficulties.

We expect these powers to be used only in exceptional circumstances—where all other options have failed. We believe that having the power available and the possibility of it being exercised, has been the trigger in some cases for governing bodies to act themselves.

Geography: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills where in the revised geography programme of study produced by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority as part of the secondary curriculum review he expects pupils to learn about *(a)* tectonic processes, *(b)* geomorphological processes, *(c)* weather and climate, *(d)* ecosystems, *(e)* population distribution and change and *(f)* the growth and development of settlements. [132175]

Jim Knight: The proposed key stage 3 programme of study for geography requires that pupils develop an understanding of the physical and human characteristics of real places, and how physical and human processes shape places, landscapes and societies. They are also required to study people-environment interactions and their consequences.

These requirements give the opportunity to cover all the topics identified in the question for instance, tectonic and geomorphological processes are physical processes; ecosystems are studied by learning about specific places; and population distribution and change, and the growth and development of settlements are influenced by the interaction between human and physical geography. The supporting text to the programme of study emphasises that weather and climate should be included in physical geography.

Teachers will use the national curriculum planning guidance to ensure appropriate coverage of these topics, while taking full advantage of the flexibility offered by the new programme of study.

Higher Education: Applications

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many applications were received by universities for each discipline in the last 12 months, broken down by *(a)* gender, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* age group. [132156]

Bill Rammell: Information showing the final numbers of applicants who applied for entry in autumn 2006 are shown in the tables. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to Higher Education Institutions. Comparable data for students applying for autumn 2007 entry will not be available until January 2008, but early figures published by UCAS show that, by January 15, applicants from England had risen by 7.1 per cent. to 291,000, which is the highest ever number of applicants at this point in the application cycle.

Applicants from England to UCAS by subject group and gender—autumn 2006 entry

	Men	Women	Total
Medicine and Dentistry	6,634	8,047	14,681
Subjects allied to medicine	6,523	23,919	30,442
Biological Sciences	10,808	15,538	26,346
Veterinary science and related	932	2,334	3,266
Physical sciences	6,776	4,135	10,911
Mathematics and Computer studies	14,044	3,533	17,577
Engineering	9,775	962	10,737
Technologies	893	195	1,088
Architecture, Building and Planning	4,085	1,447	5,532
Social Studies	9,354	16,176	25,530
Law	5,156	8,944	14,100
Business and Administrative Studies	17,376	15,135	32,511
Mass Communication and documentation	3,180	4,090	7,270
Linguistics, Classics and related	3,072	7,301	10,373
European Languages and related	1,025	2,460	3,485
Non European languages and related	436	547	983
History and philosophical studies	6,050	5,981	12,031
Creative art and design	17,100	27,291	44,391
Education	1,560	11,496	13,056
Combined courses	9,640	14,200	23,840
No preferred subject group	25,203	24,714	49,917
Total	159,622	198,445	358,067

Source:
UCAS

Applicants from England to UCAS by subject group and ethnic group—autumn 2006 entry

	White	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	NK[1]	Total
Medicine and Dentistry	7,887	4,624	896	532	447	295	14,681
Subjects allied to medicine	21,252	4,564	3,025	690	435	476	30,442
Biological Sciences	21,896	1,803	1,268	841	244	292	26,346
Veterinary science and related	3,124	40	20	52	5	25	3,266
Physical sciences	9,727	529	156	259	71	169	10,911
Mathematics and Computer studies	11,521	3,664	1,295	533	276	288	17,577
Engineering	7,604	1,500	955	278	204	196	10,737
Technologies	938	33	49	26	7	15	1,088
Architecture, Building and Planning	4,194	684	316	164	98	76	5,532
Social Studies	17,828	2,574	3,499	904	276	449	25,530
Law	8,783	3,021	1,305	519	259	213	14,100
Business and Administrative Studies	20,618	6,649	3,197	1,024	554	469	32,511
Mass Communication and documentation	5,888	436	480	284	87	95	7,270
Linguistics, Classics and related	9,061	535	162	349	83	183	10,373
European Languages and related	3,140	75	71	108	38	53	3,485
Non European languages and related	805	62	21	51	19	25	983
History and philosophical studies	10,937	334	143	310	85	222	12,031
Creative art and design	38,000	1,863	1,793	1,657	433	645	44,391
Education	11,457	878	336	227	74	84	13,056
Combined courses	19,715	1,704	1,040	757	209	415	23,840
No preferred subject group	26,205	4,313	3484	1,405	593	13,917	49,917
Total	260,602	39,885	23,511	10,970	4,497	18,602	358,067

[1] NK = applicants whose ethnicity is not known.

Source:
UCAS

Applicants from England to UCAS by subject group and age group—autumn 2006 entry

	Under 21	21-24	25-39	40 and over	Total
Medicine and Dentistry	9,633	2,731	2,153	164	14,681
Subjects allied to medicine	17,011	4,163	7,301	1,967	30,442
Biological Sciences	23,146	1,687	1,260	253	26,346
Veterinary science and related	2,435	413	338	80	3,266
Physical sciences	9,969	469	392	81	10,911
Mathematics and Computer studies	14,971	1,601	876	129	17,577
Engineering	9,110	931	635	61	10,737
Technologies	771	187	115	15	1,088
Architecture, Building and Planning	4,597	495	369	71	5,532
Social Studies	16,302	2,862	4,647	1,719	25,530
Law	12,301	933	702	164	14,100
Business and Administrative Studies	28,140	2,853	1,367	151	32,511
Mass Communication and documentation	6,438	586	209	37	7,270
Linguistics, Classics and related	9,390	489	357	137	10,373
European Languages and related	3,259	103	87	36	3,485
Non European languages and related	822	83	59	19	983

Applicants from England to UCAS by subject group and age group—autumn 2006 entry

	Under 21	21-24	25-39	40 and over	Total
History and philosophical studies	10,763	530	456	282	12,031
Creative art and design	35,508	5,091	2,766	1,026	44,391
Education	9,605	1,360	1,619	472	13,056
Combined courses	19,690	2,031	1,683	436	23,840
No preferred subject group	29,170	9,765	8,428	2,554	49,917
Total	273,031	39,363	35,819	9,854	358,067

Source
UCAS

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Overseas Visits

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many overseas visits have been made by each member of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) executive in the past 12 months; and how many of these were funded by *(a)* the QCA and *(b)* an overseas organisation. [131236]

Jim Knight: The executive members of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) who have made overseas visits in the last 12 months are the chief executive (one), director of curriculum (four) and director of regulation and standards (four). None of the visits were funded by the QCA. Five of the visits were funded by overseas organisations.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many visits the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) received from representatives of overseas curriculum setting bodies in the last 12 months; and how many were funded by *(a)* the QCA and *(b)* an overseas organisation. [131237]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) received 69 visits from representatives of overseas organisations in the last 12 months, including many with an interest in curriculum issues. None of these visits were funded by QCA.

Refuges: Pilot Schemes

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the evaluation of community-based flexible refuge pilots commissioned by his Department. [132643]

Mr. Dhanda: The Barnardo's report on the six community-based refuge pilots, and a separate "Lessons Learned" summary, are currently in draft form. Officials are working closely with Barnardo's to revise and finalise these, to extract the maximum learning from the pilots. Copies of the final versions will be placed in the Library.

School Day: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* Ribble Valley offer extended hours; and if he will make a statement. [130739]

Jim Knight: There are 43 primary schools, 11 secondary schools and two special schools in Lancashire providing access to the extended schools full core offer of services, one of which, Harris Primary School, is located in the Ribble Valley. The core offer includes primary schools providing access to child care from 8 am-6 pm all year round in response to demand, all schools offering access to a range of activities beyond the school day, parenting support, swift and easy referral and opening up facilities to the wider community.

A number of schools in Lancashire are offering the extended hours elements of the core offer as shown in the following table:

Phase	Number of schools delivering the child care element	Number of schools delivering the menu of activities element
Primary	120	212
Secondary	—	48
Special	2	9
Total	122	269

The following table shows a breakdown of schools by type in the Ribble Valley offering the extended hours elements of the core offer:

Phase	Number of schools delivering the child care element	Number of schools delivering the menu of activities element
Primary	13	10
Secondary	—	6
Special	—	—
Total	13	16

By 2010 all schools in England will be offering the extended school core offer of services.

Schools: Construction

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many new schools were built in each local authority area in each year since 1997; and which of these schools have a source of energy provided by on-site renewables. [132307]

Jim Knight: We do not currently have the data on how many new schools have been built in each local authority area in each year since 1997. We therefore do not know all of the schools which have a source of energy provided by on-site renewables but we do know of a few hundred schools that have a source of energy provided by on-site renewables.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what alterations were made to the secondary curriculum programmes of study and level descriptions produced by the Qualifications and

Curriculum Authority (QCA) secondary curriculum review between their approval by the QCA board on 14 December 2006 and their publication. [131720]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority made minor alterations to a number of programmes of study and level descriptions between 14 December 2007 and 18 January 2007. The substantive alterations included:

Revisions to the mathematics programmes of study and level descriptions following consultation with a small group of mathematics experts;

Revisions to the science level descriptions following consultation with a small group of independent scientists;

An amendment to the Key Stage 3 science programme of study to include 'conception' as something which can be affected by diet, drugs and disease;

Revisions to the list of pre-twentieth century authors contained in the English programmes of study;

Adding a reference to the development of international institutions, including the European Union, in the Key Stage 3 history programme of study;

The inclusion of other major spoken world languages as well as European Union languages in the Key Stage 3 Modern Foreign Languages programme of study;

Adding a reference to the importance of marriage in family relationships the qualities of good parenting and its value to family life in the personal well-being programmes of study.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 21 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1817-18W, on Bishops Park college, what the evidential basis was for the statement that Bishops Park college's approach to the curriculum has been shown to be effective in *(a)* helping to improve staying on rates, *(b)* reducing the number of exclusions and teenage pregnancies and *(c)* increasing parental satisfaction. [131722]

Jim Knight: Bishop's Park college is part of a study from the National College of School Leadership Research Associate programme on staying-on rates, student pregnancies, exclusions and parental satisfaction. The college is one of over 1,000 schools that the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is working with to promote the use of a broad range of measures in judging the effectiveness of the curriculum.

I have requested a copy of the research from this programme and I will write separately to the hon. Gentleman with data about Bishop's Park college on receipt.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he plans for pupils to be taught all the topics listed in the range and content sections of the revised National Curriculum programmes of study produced by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority as part of the secondary curriculum review. [132176]

Jim Knight: The range and content sections in the revised programmes of study will be presented in two parts.

There will be one list of statutory content and a second list of recommended content. Pupils will be taught all of the topics in the statutory list. It will be for teachers to decide whether they will also teach some or all of the content from the recommended list.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the minimum qualification requirements are for special educational needs co-ordinators. [132578]

Mr. Dhanda: There are no specific minimum qualification requirements in relation to special educational needs co-ordinators. School-based SENCOs are selected and appointed by head teachers, and the expectation is that heads will appoint someone with a proven track record of working successfully with children with SEN and disabilities. Training arrangements for SENCOs are currently determined locally, having regard to the knowledge, skills and experience of the person concerned, and the range and complexity of SEN and disabilities represented within the school.

The Department's SEN Code of Practice, published in November 2001, contains guidance on the role and responsibilities of SENCOs. The Teacher Training Agency, now the Training and Development Agency for Schools, also published a set of National Standards for SENCOs in 1998.

In our response to the Education and Skills Committee report on SEN, published 11 October 2006 (Cm 6940), we declared our intention to require, through regulations, all newly appointed SENCOs to undertake nationally accredited training. These regulations would be made pursuant to section 173 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

The TDA are undertaking associated development work, beginning with establishing a clear statement of the key components of the role, knowledge, skills and experience required of those leading SEN and disability provision in schools.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance was issued by his Department to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal in each year since 1997; and if he will place in the Library copies of that guidance. [132381]

Mr. Dhanda: Apart from the usual financial and administrative guidance that is given to non-departmental public bodies by central Government Departments and guidance that is available to all those who have duties under the special educational needs (SEN) statutory framework, such as the SEN Code of Practice and "Inclusive Schooling", the Department published Stage 1 of a "Quinquennial Review of the Special Educational Needs Tribunal" in August 2000. This included recommendations to the tribunal. Stage 2 of the review was a Financial Management Survey. Again recommendations were made to the tribunal. Copies of Stages 1 and 2 have been placed in the Library. No other formal guidance has been given to the tribunal.

Responsibility for the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal transferred to the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 1 April 2006.

Teachers: Pay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average starting salary is for a teacher in an *(a)* maintained primary school, *(b)* maintained secondary school and *(c)* academy. [131607]

Jim Knight: The average salary of newly qualified teachers in full-time regular service in local authority schools in England in March 2005 was £19,550 in nursery and primary schools and £19,930 in secondary schools. This is the latest information available. Teachers included are those who attained qualified teacher status in 2004.

No information is available for academies.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many maintained schools paid their head teachers *(a)* more than £80,000, *(b)* more than £90,000 and *(c)* more than £100,000 in the latest year for which figures are available. [131608]

Jim Knight: Information is not available in the format requested.

The following table provides the number of local authority maintained school leadership teachers paid more than £80,000, £90,000 and £100,000 in March 2005 the latest information available.

Local authority maintained schools leadership[1] teachers by annual salary, in England and Wales, March 2005[2]

	Leadership group
£80,000 to £90,000	320
£90,000 to £99,999	120
Over £100,000	20
Total	460

[1] Includes Head, Deputy and Assistant head teachers
[2] Provisional
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environmental Policies

2. **Kitty Ussher:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the contribution that supermarkets can make to helping reduce carbon dioxide emissions by adopting more stringent environmental policies. [132353]

David Miliband: We have recently consulted on cost-effective ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from large, non-energy intensive commercial and public sector organisations, including supermarkets. The results will be published shortly.

In addition, work is already being done to improve the environmental performance of products sold by supermarkets, for example through the development of milk, fish and clothing roadmaps, a 'green standard' for food, encouraging supermarkets to reduce waste, and promoting energy efficiency products.

Tax Changes

3. **Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from environmental organisations in response to tax changes announced in the Budget. [132355]

David Miliband: We have received no specific representations from environmental organisations on this matter. However, we are in regular contact with such organisations on this and a range of other issues.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2181-82W, on agriculture subsidies, (1) what definition he uses of the UK's interests; [127969]

(2) when he expects a figure for disallowances of payments made by his Department to be available; [127970]

(3) when he expects the European Commission to complete its audit of the 2005 Single Payment Scheme. [128050]

Barry Gardiner: If the European Commission's audit of the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) in England follows normal patterns, we would expect to be informed of the final conclusions relating to it during the course of 2008. Only at that point will a definitive figure on disallowance, if any, be available. In the intervening period, the Department will, through its contacts with the Commission, continue to defend the UK's interests with the aim of ensuring that any disallowance proposals are minimised to the fullest possible degree.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the contingent liabilities for disallowances arising from Common Agricultural Policy schemes in each month since January 2006; and if he will make a statement; [128047]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2181W, on agriculture subsidies, to which years the estimated £305 million for disallowance arising from Common Agricultural Policy schemes applies; when the final disallowance will be *(a)* finalised and *(b)* announced in public; and if he will make a statement; [129660]

(3) what estimate he has made of the disallowance arising from Common Agricultural Policy schemes, with particular reference to the single farm payment and related contingent liabilities for each month since January 2006; and when he was first informed that the total disallowance in this respect may be up to £305 million; [129661]

(4) what definition he uses of a prudent and reasonable estimate, in the context of the claim on the reserve to cover provision for disallowance arising from Common Agricultural Policy schemes and the single farm payment and the possible financial correction the European Commission may apply; [130095]

(5) what his most recent estimate is of the disallowance resulting from Common Agricultural Policy schemes. [130944]

Barry Gardiner: The level of potential disallowance relating to all CAP schemes and all UK Paying Agencies is subject to ongoing review by officials and is based on an assessment of the payments process, communications received from, and negotiations with, the European Commission. These prudent, i.e. careful and cautious, assessments are brought together and reported to Ministers as necessary, as was the case for the provisions made in the Department's Resource Accounts for 2005-06 and for the claim on the reserve included in the Spring Supplementary Estimate for £305 million estimate cover, which related to potential provisions in respect of SPS 2005, SPS 2006 and other CAP schemes dating back to 2004. In each case, the overall estimates were based on the latest assessment of potential disallowances at the time. An exercise will be undertaken in relation to the Department's Resource Accounts for 2006-07, at which time a revised assessment will be made of the level of provisions required and what disclosures need to be made in respect of contingent liabilities.

Detailed discussions will take place with the Commission over a number of years before a final figure is reached on any disallowances and the outcome will be disclosed in the Department's Resource Accounts in the year in which they are imposed.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the conclusions and recommendations of the report by the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee on the Rural Payments Agency and the implementation of the Single Payment Scheme. [132358]

David Miliband: I am grateful to the right hon. Member for Fylde (Mr. Jack) and his colleagues on the EFRA Committee for their work to produce this report. My Department is currently considering it and will publish a response in the usual way in due course.

Carbon Emissions

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made in meeting the Government's environmental targets for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. [132360]

Ian Pearson: Emission of carbon dioxide fell by 6.4 per cent. between 1990 and 2005. Adjusted to include the European Union Emission Trading Scheme UK carbon dioxide emission in 2005 were approximately 11 per cent. lower than 1990 levels.

Provisional 2006 figures indicate that carbon dioxide emissions were about 5.25 per cent. below their 1990 level. This does not include the effect of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Climate Change

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to communicate to the public the causes of climate change and the actions that can be taken to tackle it. [132369]

David Miliband: We are supporting a range of communications activities and campaigns to enable individuals to think about changing their behaviours to adopt lower carbon lifestyles and help tackle climate change.

Coal Fired Power Stations

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department of Trade and Industry on the environmental impact of new coal-fired power stations. [132359]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA Ministers and officials regularly meet their DTI colleagues to discuss a wide range of energy and environmental issues, including the greenhouse gas impact of different forms of power generation.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper and publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers or publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic was of each. [130011]

Barry Gardiner: During the financial year 2006-07, DEFRA's Communications Directorate has spent £42,316 on advertorials in newspapers and other publications. All this expenditure has been in relation to the Department's Personal Food Imports campaign.

During the financial year 2006-07, DEFRA's Communications Directorate has not spent any funds sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements. However we have spent £26,213 on including our own supplements or inserts with newspapers or magazines (£15,000 on a DEFRA supplement with Farmers Weekly, and £11,213 on a DEFRA insert with Fishing News).

Detail of any expenditure incurred by the wider Department is not available.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which postal companies handle mail dispatched by his Department and its agencies. [128243]

Barry Gardiner: Royal Mail handle mail dispatched by DEFRA and its agencies.

Environment Agency

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the Environment Agency's cost data from its management information systems. [132367]

Ian Pearson: The Agency uses these data to generate monthly reports, which are monitored by the EA Board. The same information is used to produce the Agency's annual accounts, and these are audited by the National Audit Office.

Marine Environment

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the devolved Administrations on the drafting of legislation to protect the UK's marine environment. [132376]

Mr. Bradshaw: Ministers and officials have held very constructive discussions with the devolved Administrations. I hope the Administrations in Wales and Scotland after the forthcoming elections are equally committed to the marine environment.

Recycling

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Local Government Association on the setting of targets for recycling. [132356]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have regular discussions with representatives of local government and others to discuss recycling and other waste matters.

The Local Government Association submitted a formal response to our consultation on a revised Waste Strategy for England. We are planning to publish the strategy shortly.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bangladesh

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on recent bombings in Bangladesh co-ordinated by Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh. [132567]

Dr. Howells: We are not aware of any bomb attacks in recent months which have been confirmed as having been co-ordinated by Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh.

Bangladesh: Politics and Government

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of the murder charges laid by the authorities in Bangladesh against Sheikh Hasina, leader of the Awami League party. [132301]

Dr. Howells: We are aware that serious criminal charges have been brought against Sheikh Hasina and other political leaders in Bangladesh. We expect the caretaker Government to act in the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, to act with integrity and to respect human rights and the rule of law. We have reminded the Bangladesh Government of their responsibilities towards all those accused and urged them to ensure that due process is followed.

British Embassy: Washington

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Cabinet Ministers stayed at the British embassy in Washington between *(a)* 3 and 9 February 2004 and *(b)* 14 and 17 December 2004. [131351]

Mr. McCartney: According to official records, no Cabinet Ministers stayed at our embassy in Washington on the dates in question.

Burma: Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports she has received of the welfare of Aung San Suu Kyi. [132001]

Mr. McCartney: We remain concerned about the welfare of Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been detained by the Burmese Government since May 2003.

The conditions of her detention are very restrictive. Her doctor is allowed to visit her occasionally. On 24 November 2006, our Ambassador in Rangoon formally requested authority from the Burmese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to pay a courtesy call on her. The request was refused.

I discussed the situation of Aung San Suu Kyi when I met the UN Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahim Gambari, on 15 November 2006. Mr. Gambari met her during his visit to Burma in November 2006. We understand that Aung Sang Suu Kyi assured Mr. Gambari that she was in reasonably good health. Mr. Gambari raised concerns about her welfare with the Burmese Government.

We have repeatedly called for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners in Burma.

Burma: Human Rights

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the Government has made to the United Nations Human Rights Council on *(a)* conditions of political prisoners, *(b)* freedom of the press and *(c)* food provision in Burma. [132604]

Mr. McCartney: I raised the human rights situation in Burma when I addressed the Human Rights Council on 13 March. I expressed our concern that the people of Burma did not enjoy the most basic of human rights, including the rights to freedom of speech and association; and that the fundamental tenets of good governance and the rule of law were not upheld. I also drew attention to ongoing serious human rights abuses, particularly in areas of armed conflict. The European Union Presidency and our Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva also set out our concerns in statements to the Council on 23 March.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress she has made in persuading the Government of Burma to improve their observance of human rights. [132000]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office identifies Burma as a country of concern in our 2006 Annual Report on Human Rights. The Government's policy is to promote full respect for human rights in Burma encouraging the rule of law, democracy and good governance, and the freedom of association and speech in accordance with international human rights law.

We have been at the forefront of international efforts over many years to bring pressure to bear on the military regime to re-establish democracy and to respect human rights. We take every opportunity to raise human rights issues with the regime and remind them of their obligations to adhere to international human rights law. Our Embassy in Rangoon also delivers capacity building assistance through our Global Opportunities Fund in support of these objectives.

I have raised the human rights situation regularly with the Burmese regime and other Governments in the region. On 16 June 2006, I called in the Burmese Ambassador and on 5 July 2006 I wrote to the Burmese Foreign Minister, highlighting our many concerns. On 18 September 2006, I raised the serious human rights situation with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ambassadors, including the Burmese Ambassador, and on 4 December 2006 with the ASEAN Secretary-General. I have also raised Burma with the Governments of China, India, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and South Korea. I have discussed the human rights abuses taking place in Burma with Juan Mendez, the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. I discussed Burma in detail with Ibrahim Gambari, the UN Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs, on 15 November 2006, following his visit to the country. Most recently, I raised the human rights situation in Burma in my address to the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 13 March and at the EU/ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Nuremberg on 15 March, in the presence of the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister.

In addition, our Ambassador in Rangoon regularly raises human rights with the regime, most recently when he met the Burmese Ministers for Planning and Immigration and the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister on 5 January.

The UK works closely with the EU and other international partners, including the UN and ASEAN, to promote human rights in Burma, and fully supports the efforts of the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma, Professor Sergio Pinheiro.

We supported the efforts to have Burma added to the UN Security Council agenda in September 2006 and co-sponsored with the US a UN Security Council Resolution on Burma. This was put to the vote on 12 January. Nine members of the Security Council supported the Resolution. However, three States, including two Permanent Members of the Council, voted against and as such the Resolution was not adopted. While the result was disappointing, it is important to note that all Security Council members agreed that there were serious issues of concern in Burma. This, and the positive votes from the majority of Security Council partners, reflected the international community's deep concern over the plight of Burma's people. Burma remains on the UN Security Council agenda.

Departments: Recruitment

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women failed the Band C Assessment and Development Centres in 2005-06, broken down by age groups (i) 20 to 29, (ii) 30 to 39 and (c) 40 plus. [132226]

Mr. Hoon: Our Management Information system records 71 per cent. (52 out of 73) male candidates failed the Band C Assessment Development Centre (ADC) in financial year 2005-06. The age group breakdown is: 20 to 29 year olds, 67 per cent. (14 out of 21 in this age group); 30 to 39 year olds, 78 per cent. (32 out of 41); and 40 plus year olds, 55 per cent. (six out of 11).

The system records 67 per cent. of women (36 out of 54) failed the Band C ADC in financial year 2005-06. The age group breakdown is: 20 to 29 year olds, 36 per cent. of candidates (five out of 14 female in this age group); 30 to 39 year olds, 71 per cent. (20 out of 28); and 40 plus year olds, 92 per cent. (11 out of 12).

Iraq: Death

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the estimated Iraqi death toll for *(a)* civilian deaths and *(b)* all other deaths is for each month since March 2003; and what methods were used for the collation and presentation of the data. [132262]

Dr. Howells: All deaths in Iraq resulting from military and terrorist attacks are a tragedy. The Government of Iraq are best placed to monitor the numbers of Iraqi casualties, but we continue to believe that there are no comprehensive or reliable figures for deaths since March 2003. Estimates vary according to the method of collection.

According to figures released by the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior on 2 January 2007, 12,320 civilians were killed during 2006. The UN Assistance Mission for Iraq estimates that 34,452 civilians were killed in 2006, on the basis of information obtained through the Iraqi Health Ministry, hospitals and the Medico-Legal Institute in Baghdad. No further figures are currently available.

Nepal

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on recent ethnic unrest in the south and east of Nepal. [132590]

Dr. Howells: The UK was deeply disturbed by the events in Gaur, southern Nepal on 21 March during which 27 people were killed. This shocking display of violence is unacceptable in a democratic society and does not help Nepal or the peace process. Nor does it help address the legitimate grievances of the Madhesis and other disenfranchised groups in the Terai region

who have been demonstrating for greater inclusion in the interim constitution and wider political process. We have urged the Government of Nepal to take prompt action to bring the perpetrators of this violence to justice and welcomed the statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, which also called for the Government of Nepal to launch an investigation into the killings in Gaur. The full text of the statement is available at:

http://nepal.ohchr.org/resources/Documents/English/pressreleases/MAR2007/2007_03_22_HC_GAUR_E.pdf.

We were concerned to read of threats against human rights defenders and journalists in the Terai. The UK has long supported the work of Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other human rights groups in Nepal and will continue to support calls to tackle human rights violations and impunity.

The continuing violence in the Terai reinforces the urgent need for the Government of Nepal to address Madhesi grievances and to work towards a more democratic and inclusive system. During his visit to Nepal on 2-4 April, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development met with a wide range of politicians from all parties, including Maoists. He urged all parties to refrain from violence and stressed the need for an inclusive political process.

Nepal: Elections

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assurances she has received that elections to a special assembly to rewrite the Nepalese constitution will be held in June. [132589]

Dr. Howells: Nepal's Chief Election Commissioner told the media on 13 April that elections on 20 June are no longer possible. The Commissioner has also written to the Government of Nepal to say that, in order to prepare for an effective election, he requires 110 days from the date that all necessary election legislation has been passed. With the interim Parliament still debating the necessary legislation, the Election Commission has not yet been able to finalise procedures, manuals, training and voter education materials.

In addition, the Electoral Constituency Delimitation Commission and Government have yet to agree on the delimitation of an additional 24 territorial constituencies.

These have been introduced, mostly in the Terai, to add to the existing 205 throughout Nepal, in an attempt to address Madhesi concerns. The deadline for this exercise has been extended to 29 April.

During his visit to Nepal on 2-4 April, my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-secretary of State for International Development urged all parties to work towards free, fair and credible elections in an atmosphere free from violence and intimidation. He called on the Government of Nepal to ensure that voters were able genuinely and freely to express their will.

The Government of Nepal have yet to react to the Chief Election Commissioner's letter. However, the eight parties are due to meet to discuss the announcement and consider next steps. In the meantime, we will encourage the Government to use any delay in the election process to create a transparent and properly sequenced plan for elections later this year. In addition, we will continue to work with the EU, the UN and our other international partners and non-governmental organisations to ensure that the political and security environment in Nepal is appropriate to allow free, fair and credible elections to take place.

Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what plans she has for proposals to take forward the UK's multilateral disarmament commitments in the run up to the May 2007 Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2010 nuclear non-proliferation treaty review conference; and whether she has had any discussions with her United States counterparts on such proposals; [131817]

(2) what initiatives she is planning to take forward the UK's multilateral disarmament commitments in the run up to the Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2010 nuclear non-proliferation treaty review conference in Vienna in May; and whether she has had any discussions with her United States counterpart on such proposals. [132289]

Dr. Howells: The Government are strongly committed to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), which is the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and the framework for nuclear disarmament. The UK is determined to make every effort to ensure that this review cycle results in a positive and substantive final document at the 2010 Review Conference that moves forward all aspects of Treaty implementation, including disarmament. We are working with allies, including the US, to lay the groundwork for this at the April-May 2007 NPT Preparatory Committee. We believe we have already made a contribution by announcing, in the White Paper on the Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent, a further 20 per cent. cut in our warhead stockpile.

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters she plans to raise at the meeting of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty Preparatory Committee starting on 30 April; and if she will make a statement. [132572]

Dr. Howells: The United Kingdom will work with the EU, with its allies in the Western European and Others' Group and with the other nuclear weapon states towards strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and the wider nuclear non-proliferation regime. There are a number of issues on which useful work could be undertaken, many of which were set out in the EU Common Position agreed for the 2005 review conference and remain outstanding. It will be important to build consensus on these areas, and any new workstreams, in this and future Preparatory Committees. We hope that this process will culminate in a substantive final document being agreed at the 2010 NPT review conference.

Post-conflict Reconstruction Unit

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on her Department's input to the Post-conflict Reconstruction Unit. [132268]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is actively engaged in all aspects of the Post-conflict Reconstruction Unit's (PCRU) work. The FCO, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development provide strategic direction to the PCRU through quarterly meetings at director-level. The FCO also works closely with the PCRU on overarching issues such as security and rule of law, and on the PCRU's international deployments. The FCO has encouraged its staff to apply for positions in the unit: it currently has five working there.

HEALTH

Advertising

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department has spent purchasing space in *The Guardian* newspaper in each of the last five years. [105621]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Childbirth: Deaths

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the death rate per million maternities from puerperal sepsis and other forms of septicaemia was in each year since 1999-2000; and if she will make a statement. [132480]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Deaths from puerperal sepsis are very rare. The Department-sponsored confidential enquiry into maternal deaths "Why Mothers Die" report for 2000-02 only identified five women who died of puerperal sepsis in the United Kingdom for the three years 2000 to 2002. This gives a maternal death rate of 2.5 per million maternities. The next report is due to be published later this year and will contain the figures for the three year period 2003-05.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the change in numbers of colorectal nurse specialist posts on the effectiveness of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Programme; and if she will make a statement. [130801]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of colorectal nurse specialists is not collected centrally and the Department has not undertaken an assessment of current numbers. It is for cancer networks to work in partnership with strategic health authorities, national health service trusts and postgraduate deaneries to put in place a sustainable process to assess, plan and review their work force needs and the education and training of all staff linked to local and national priorities for cancer including the implementation of the National Bowel Screening Programme.

Dentistry

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has sought to recruit dentists from India. [107492]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Our Project 1,000 recruitment campaign, undertaken in 2004-05, extended to India. With the agreement of the Indian health department, the Department made arrangements for dentists to sit Part A of the General Dental Council's International Qualifying Examination in India.

Educational Psychology

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are being considered for the *(a)* regulation and *(b)* training of educational psychologists following the proposals set out in the Regulation of Health Professionals White Paper, Cm 7013; what discussions she has had with local authorities on this matter; and if she will make a statement. [129571]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have decided that the Health Professions Council (HPC) should manage the regulation of applied psychologists, including educational psychologists. This will help to foster consistency of approach across the regulated professions while meeting specific professions' educational, practice and conduct needs within a common framework. It is anticipated that their training arrangements will remain as they are now. Any changes made following regulation will be subject to consultation by the HPC.

This decision was made following a consultation in 2005 on proposals for the statutory regulation of applied psychologists, which made clear that initial standards of proficiency for applied psychologists would be very similar to those required by the British Psychological Society. The 2005 consultation included all local authorities and a number of local authority educational psychology services responded to it. Their responses have been taken into account.

Exercise

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress is being made by the Government on reaching their target of getting 70 per cent. of the population physically active by 2020; and what projects there are in place to reach the target; [132509]

(2) how much the Government have spent on reaching their target of getting 70 per cent. of the population physically active by 2020 in the last 12 months; and how much is planned to be spent over the next five years. [132510]

Caroline Flint: "Choosing Activity: a physical activity action plan" set out a plan to promote physical activity for all in accordance with the evidence and recommendations set out in the Chief Medical Officer's report "At least five a week". "Choosing Activity" summarised how we would deliver the physical activity commitments in the Public Health White Paper 'Choosing Health' and other Government

announcements prior to its publication in March 2005. By January 2007, 57 of the 99 commitments had been achieved. Projects support physical activity and sport in schools, workplaces, and in the community.

The Government's physical activity priorities were published in public service agreement targets to halt the year-on-year increase in obesity among children under 11, increase the take up of cultural and sporting opportunities by adults and young people aged 16 and above, and to enhance the take up of sporting opportunities by five to 16-year olds through physical exercise and school sport.

The Government remain committed to building upon this progress and in transforming the population into a fitter and more active nation in the run up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Government have invested and continue to invest millions in supporting physical activity and sport, nationally and across the NHS and local government. The Department does not collect detailed breakdowns of individual expenditure on physical activity by all local agencies such as primary care trusts and local authorities. Spending allocations for the next five years are subject to the current comprehensive spending review.

General Practitioners

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners in *(a)* Bedfordshire and *(b)* England have become GPs with a specialist interest in each year since 1997, broken down by primary care trust; and if she will make a statement. [122815]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A table showing the number of general practitioners with a special interest has been placed in the Library. This information is only available since 2000-01. The 2006-07 information is the latest information available to quarter 3.

General Practitioners: Dermatology

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the General Practitioners with a Special Interest (GPwSI) Working Group's forthcoming guidance on the accreditation of GPwSI in dermatology and skin surgery will be a mandatory national standard; and if she will make a statement. [129013]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are planning to publish "National Guidelines for the Accreditation of GPs and Pharmacists with Special Interests" shortly. This document will set out a process for local accreditation of such practitioners and will be supported by competency frameworks for a range of specialities, including dermatology. The Department is currently considering options to mandate primary care trust compliance with the guidelines.

Hammersmith Hospital and St. Mary's NHS Trusts

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources her Department has allocated to facilitate the take-over of Hammersmith and St. Mary hospital trust by Imperial College, London. [131349]

Andy Burnham: The Department has not allocated any specific resources to facilitate the proposed integration of St. Mary's national health service trust, the Hammersmith hospitals NHS trust and the Imperial College into the Academic Health Sciences Centre which is subject to the outcome of local public consultation.

Hartlepool Primary Care Trust: Health Visitors

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors were employed by Hartlepool Primary Care Trust in each year since the trust was established. [129786]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: Health visitors in the Hartlepool Primary Care Trust as at 30 September each specified year

	Headcount
2001	22
2002	24
2003	26
2004	32
2005	41

Source:
Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Health Professionals: Foreign Workers

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what checks are made on the validity of the medical qualifications of *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses who are recruited to the NHS from outside the European Union. [128943]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All doctors and nurses from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) who wish to work in the UK must register with the General Medical Council (CMC) or Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

Doctors:

The following documentary evidence is needed by the CMC to support their application.

primary medical qualification;

specialist medical qualification;

licence to practise medicine;

certificate of good standing from a regulatory body of the country where they are practising;

proof of nationality—passport or national identity card;

curriculum vitae;

International English Language Testing System (IELTS) certificate (if applicable); and

current registration fee.

As part of the process all overseas doctors must visit the GMC London office in person to undergo a pre-registration identity check. A photograph of the doctor will be taken and this will be made available to employers so they can be assured of the doctor's identity.

Full registration enables doctors to work in any form of professional medical practice in the United Kingdom. Doctors must, however, also hold specialist

registration to take up a consultant post (other than a locum consultant post) in the national health service. General practitioners (GPs) must be on the GP register.

NHS trusts who recruit staff from abroad should carry out the necessary pre-appointment checks in accordance with NHS Employers safer recruitment guidance.

These checks should include :

verification of identity;

qualifications;

registration;

Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks;

alert letters;

Protection of Children Act (PoCA) check;

references; and

occupational health checks

Nurses:

The NMCs new standard for applicants trained outside the European Union (EU) was launched in September 2005. From 1 September 2006 the only route to registration with the NMC will be through the "Overseas Nurses Programme" (ONP).

All applicants who apply for nurse registration and who meet NMC minimum requirements will be required to undertake all or part of the ONP. The ONP sets out common entry standards, a compulsory 20-day period of protected learning for all nurses trained outside the EEA and, where appropriate, a period of supervised practice. Every applicant will have to pass the specified IELTS before they can apply to go onto the ONP.

From 1 February 2007 all applicants to the nurses or midwives parts of the register, who trained outside the EU, must complete and provide evidence of the British Council IELTS before submitting their application to the NMC.

Health Professions: Training

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Modernising Medical Careers and Medical Training Application Service process has been formally quality assured; and if she will make a statement. [129699]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Medical Training Application Service (MTAS) processes have been developed following extensive consultation which included both paper based and workshop based reviews within a formal project quality management framework. The MTAS information technology system is provided by an ISO9000 accredited supplier and has been reviewed and found fit to be for purpose.

The Modernising Medical Careers programmes itself has been subject to scrutiny by the Office of Government Commerce Gateway Review process in both 2005 and 2006.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to encourage more people to train as *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses. [107676]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In order to encourage applicants to medicine, nursing and other healthcare training, the Department established the NHS Careers service in 1999. NHS Careers provides comprehensive information to the public about careers in healthcare. It promotes the national health service as an employer and attracts potential employees to the NHS. NHS Careers provides a 24-hour helpline (0845 60 60 655), website (www.nhscareers.nhs.uk), literature and supporting services for the public, NHS employers, schools, colleges and careers advisers. The service is now operated by NHS Employers.

In addition, the Department provides non-repayable NHS bursaries for nurses and pays the tuition fees in full for the majority of NHS professional students undertaking programmes leading to professional registration. A means-tested bursary is available to medical students for the latter years of their undergraduate training.

Medicine

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to provide all medical students with free copies of each edition of the British National Formulary in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009 and *(c)* 2010. [130420]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no allocation to fund the provision of free copies of the British National Formulary to medical students in England from 2007-08 onwards.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department will respond to the letter of 14 March from the hon. Member for Billericay on the planned Independent Sector Treatment Centre for Basildon. [132512]

Andy Burnham: I regret the hon. Gentleman's letter was not received by the Department. A copy has now been obtained and a reply will be sent shortly.

Milton Keynes Hospital: ICT

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to ensure that the Care Records Service computer system at Milton Keynes hospital is fit for purpose; and when this work will be complete. [132466]

Caroline Flint: Urgent and priority action is being taken to manage resolution of the operational difficulties which have been experienced with the new acute patient administration system (PAS) at Milton Keynes general hospital national health service trust since it went live on 24 February. This is being implemented by a joint Fujitsu and Cerner technical specialist team on behalf of the local service provider and the main subcontractor respectively. The team is in attendance daily at the trust, supervised by a senior Fujitsu management presence on site full time to lead the resolution process. Progress in tackling and

overcoming the problems which have arisen, the majority of which have already been resolved, is being monitored daily.

In addition, the Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency's senior deployment manager for the south of England is for the time being stationed permanently on site to ensure the work of the Fujitsu/Cerner team is completed to the satisfaction of the trust, and that it is managed through to resolution.

Work that is now in hand is likely to result in effective operation of the PAS system within the next two to three weeks.

NHS Derriford Hospital

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-clinicians employed by NHS Derriford hospital are paid in excess of £80,000 per annum. [129816]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not hold this information as decisions on the amount of salary that national health service staff receive are made by the local NHS organisations which employ them.

NHS: Ancillary Staff

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which patient and public interest groups responded to her Department's review of the regulation of non-medical healthcare professions. [122126]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for North-West Leicestershire (David Taylor) on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1686W.

NHS: Equal Opportunities

Michael Jabez Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* gender, *(b)* age and *(c)* ethnicity is of (i) chairmen and (ii) non-executive directors appointed during the last 12 months to NHS trusts in (A) England and (B) South East Coast Strategic Health Authority. [128991]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information about the gender, age and ethnicity of chairs and non-executive directors of national health service trusts and strategic health authorities in England, is held by the Appointments Commission. I have asked Sir William Wells, Chair of the Commission, to respond to the query directly.

NHS: Tolls

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what cost was incurred by all London hospital NHS trusts in reimbursing staff for the London congestion charge in the last financial year. [131598]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected by the Department. However, a national health service reimbursement scheme run by Transport for London (TfL) ensures that the NHS is not financially disadvantaged by the congestion charge scheme. Staff on NHS duties are reimbursed by the relevant NHS organisation which is then reimbursed by TfL.

In the last financial year, TfL paid £166,740 to reimburse NHS organisations in London for staff journeys made while engaged in the following activities: transporting bulky, heavy or fragile equipment or supplies; transporting patients' notes or other clinically confidential material; transporting controlled drugs; transporting clinical waste, radioactive materials, contaminated sharps or non-medical poisons; transporting prescription only medicines or waste medicinal products; transporting clinical specimens, body fluids, tissues or organs; or on call—and providing services that are required in consequence of an emergency or other extraordinary circumstance.

Non-medical Vacancies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how often the non-medical vacancy rate is surveyed; and when the next such survey will be published; [129899]

(2) how many vacancies there are for each non-medical profession in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority; and what vacancy rate this represents in each case. [129902]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The vacancy survey is carried out as at 31 March each year by The Information Centre and defines a vacancy as one which has lasted three months or more and which the employer is actively trying to fill. The next survey will be carried out at the end of March 2007 and the results will be published in July 2007.

The results of the 2006 vacancy survey showing the number of vacancies and vacancy rates in the non-medical professions, nationally and by each strategic health authority have been placed in the Library.

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust: Midwives

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time midwives and *(b)* midwife assistants were employed by Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS trust as at 31 September in each of the last five years. [129333]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is set out in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified midwifery staff and support staff in the maternity services area of work in the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole national health service trust as at 30 September each specified year

Full-time equivalent

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Total specified staff	90	159	150	211	205
Qualified midwives	65	122	109	151	142

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified midwifery staff and support staff in the maternity services area of work in the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole national health service trust as at 30 September each specified year

	Full-time equivalent				
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Nursing assistants/ auxiliaries	11	11	10	17	15
Health care assistants	14	26	30	40	44
Support workers	0	0	0	3	3

Note:
Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical work force census.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies for midwife positions there were in each of the last three years for *(a)* Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust and *(b)* the NHS. [129334]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the following table.

The Information Centre for Health and Social Care Vacancies Survey: NHS three month vacancies for qualified midwives each specified year
Three month vacancy rates, numbers and staff in post

	March 2003		*September 2002*		*March 2004*		*September 2003*	
	Three month vacancy rate (%)	*Three month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (whole-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*Three month vacancy rate (%)*	*Three month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (whole-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*
England	3.1	572	18,119	23,249	3.3	619	18,444	23,941
of which:								
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	0.0	[1]—	122	149	0.0	[1]—	109	133

	March 2005		*September 2004*		*March 2006*		*September 2005*	
	Three month vacancy rate (%)	*Three month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (whole-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*	*Three month vacancy rate (%)*	*Three month vacancy number*	*Staff in post (whole-time equivalent)*	*Staff in post (headcount)*
England	1.8	348	18,854	24,844	1.0	185	18,949	24,908
of which:								
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	[1]—	[1]—	0.0	0	142	179

[1] Zero

Three month vacancy notes:
1. Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust did not supply a valid return for the 2005 vacancies survey. Vacancy data for this trust for this year are not available.
2. Three month vacancy information is as at 31 March each specified year.
3. Three month vacancies are vacancies which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full-time equivalents).
4. Three month vacancy rates are three month vacancies expressed as a percentage of three month vacancies plus staff in post.
5. Three month vacancy rates are calculated using staff in post from the Non-Medical Workforce Census.
6. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.
7. Vacancy and staff in post numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number.
8. Calculating the vacancy rates using the above data may not equal the actual vacancy rates.
9. Due to rounding, totals may not equal the sum of component parts.

Sources:
The Information Centre for Health and Social Care Vacancies Survey 31 March each specified year.
The Information Centre for Health and Social Care Non-Medical Workforce Census 30 September each specified year.

Patients: Barnet

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in Barnet received *(a)* in-patient and *(b)* out-patient treatment in (i) 1996-97, (ii) 1997-98 and (iii) 2005-06; how many have received each type of treatment in 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [129815]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Since 1998-99, in-patient data have been collected on first finished consultant episodes (FFCEs). This is not directly comparable with the data collected before 1998-99, which were on the more widely defined finished consultant episodes (FCEs).

Enfield Primary Care Trust run a specialist clinical assessment service, which triages outpatient referrals and is redirecting a significant proportion to alternative services in primary care.

In-patients—elective and non-elective general and acute activity

	Definition	*Finished consultant episodes in Barnet*
1996-97	FCEs	83,276
1997-98	FCEs	73,005
2005-06	FFCEs	72,048
Part-year April 2006 to January 2007	FFCEs	64,345

Out-patients—total out-patient attendances—all specialties

	Finished consultant episodes in Barnet
1996-97	353,979
1997-98	315,553
2005-06	278,641
Part-year April 2006 to January 2007	204,533

Notes

The 1996-97 and 1997-98 figures are for Chase Farm Hospitals Trust and Wellhouse National Health Service Trust combined. The 2005-06 and 2006-07 figures are for Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust, formed in April 1999 from the merger of the other two.

Source

Department of Health Monthly Monitoring and KH09/QMOP/QM08 returns

School Nurses

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many school nurses are employed by each primary care trust; and how many carry out vision screening of *(a)* primary school children and *(b)* secondary school children. [121470]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information on school nurses employed by primary care trust (PCT) has been placed in the Library.

Although 100 PCTs do not employ any school nurses, this does not necessarily mean that there are no school nurses working in that area. The data taken from the Information Centre workforce census record who employs school nurses rather than where they actually work. For example, some of the 41 school nurses who were employed by the former Leeds East PCT worked within other PCT boundaries in Leeds where none were employed.

Information is not collected centrally on how many of these carry out vision screening.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government has spent on the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* prevention of sexually transmitted diseases in the last 12 months; and how much will be spent over the next five years. [132511]

Andy Burnham: Sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment is funded through general allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) and is not separately identified. In addition, PCTs received funding for implementing the targets in the White Paper "Choosing Health: making healthy choices easier", a copy of which is available in the Library. PCT revenue allocations separately identify funding to support the implementation of "Choosing Health". It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations.

Funding for prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STI) is focused on the "Condom Essential Wear" campaign, which targets some of the hardest to reach young people who are at risk of contracting an STI. £6 million funding was provided for the campaign in 2006-07 and £4 million for the financial year 2007-08. It is too early to say what the funding levels will be beyond this.

In addition to the funding for the "Condom Essential Wear" campaign, the Department has also funded/agreed to fund the following:

£4 million to fund the two Department for Education and Skills' campaigns aimed at reducing teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, 'R U Thinking and Want Respect? Use a Condom' in 2006-07 to 2007-08;

£2.2 million to fund the work of the fpa (formerly Family Planning Association) in 2006-07 to 2007-08; and

£5.4 million to fund work campaigning to prevent the spread of HIV conducted by the Terrence Higgins Trust and the African HIV Policy Network in 2006-07 to 2007-08.

Speech Therapy

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the employment prospects in NHS trusts for newly-graduated speech and language therapists; and if she will make a statement. [130215]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities (SHAs) to analyse their local situation, develop plans and take action to recruit the appropriate staff required to deliver high quality speech and language services.

SHAs are working proactively with employers to support graduate opportunities. NHS Employers published guidance recently to support local national health service organisations, to help them maximise employment opportunities and to ensure the health and social care services do not lose the skills of newly qualified graduates.

On 7 February, NHS Employers hosted a summit which brought together representatives from SHAs, trade unions, the independent healthcare sector, social care, the higher education sector and Job Centre Plus. The outcome of the day was a jointly agreed action plan to help newly qualified graduates find jobs. The action plan will be taken forward by local partnerships working together to develop the best solutions for their area.

Surgery: Waiting Lists

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were cancelled within three months of the date of the operation being given to the patient in the last 12 months. [131120]

Andy Burnham: The data collected cover cancellations for non-clinical reasons on the day the patient is due to arrive or after arrival in hospital, and

for non-clinical reasons on the day of surgery. There were 54,682 such cancellations in the last 12 months (taken from Department of Health dataset QMCO).

Under the 18-week target, maximum waits of 18 weeks from referral to treatment will include any periods of delay caused by cancellations.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Cross Border Co-operation: EC Countries

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's policy is on the proposed transposition of the Treaty of Prüm into EU law; and if he will make a statement. [123501]

Joan Ryan: The current German presidency of the EU has put forward a draft Council Decision on the stepping up of cross-border co-operation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime. This draft Council Decision aims to incorporate into EU law some of the elements of the Prüm Convention. The Government are broadly supportive of the draft Council Decision because it provides the potential to improve between EU member states the exchange of DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration data, which will help British police forces prevent, prosecute and investigate serious crime and make it harder for criminals to escape justice.

The draft Council Decision has been submitted to Parliament for scrutiny. In addition to the written evidence provided to Parliamentary Scrutiny Committees by the Home Office I also gave oral evidence to the Lords European Committee on 7 March.

Roadside Breathtesting

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in approving evidential roadside breathtesting devices. [132032]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* We are currently finalising a type approval guide for evidential roadside breathtesting devices. Once the guide is available it will be for manufacturers to prepare devices in accordance with the guide and submit them for approval. We hope this will happen later this year.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the first evidential roadside breathtesting device to be used by a constabulary. [132031]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* We hope that manufacturers will be able to submit devices for approval later this year. The necessarily detailed tests for approval might then take around nine months. Once a device or devices are approved, it will be for manufacturers to market and police forces to purchase as they consider appropriate.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely impact on roads policing of the use of evidential roadside breathtesting devices. [132033]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* At present only screening tests can be conducted at the roadside; a person must be taken to a police station for an evidential test. Evidential testing at the roadside will save time and enable more enforcement. It will also catch those who fall below the drink-drive limit in the time taken to get to an evidential test.

Emergency Calls: Standards

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in respect of how many 999 calls the target response time was missed in 2006. [119924]

Mr. McNulty: Incidents reported to the police on 999 are graded by priority in accordance with the Police National Call Handling Standards and target response times are set accordingly by individual police forces appropriate to their geographic and population profile.

The data in respect of how many incidents reported to 999 were responded to by individual police forces against their respective target times in 2006 is not compiled centrally by the Home Office.

Identity Cards

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether biometric data of children aged 11 to 16 years captured for biometric passports will be transferred to the new Identity Cards database. [130013]

Joan Ryan: It is intended that British citizens aged 16 and over will become registered on the National Identity Register and receive an identity card alongside an application for an adult passport.

It is only once such an application is received that biometrics will be recorded on the National Identity Register as part of the application process for a passport and identity card package.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 519W, on identity cards, how penalties under the Identity Cards Act 2006 will be communicated to those who incur them. [131354]

Joan Ryan: A formal notice will be issued under section 31 of the Identity Cards Act to inform a person of a decision to impose a civil financial penalty for failure to comply with a specific requirement, such as a failure to notify a change of circumstances (under section 10) or to surrender an ID card when required (under section 11). The notice will set out the reasons for deciding to impose the penalty and the amount of the penalty as well as explaining the steps that the person may take to object to it. In addition, prior to the issue of a penalty notice, a warning letter will normally be issued to an individual to alert them that they appear to be liable to a civil penalty, explaining why this is the case and how they can meet the particular requirement in question and thus avoid the need for any penalty to be imposed.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of people were convicted of an offence of the *(a)* manufacture, *(b)* importation, *(c)* sale and *(d)* hire of (i) flick knives and (ii) gravity knives under section 1 of the Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 in each of the last five years, broken down by age group. [131179]

Mr. McNulty: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences in connection with dangerous weapons under the Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 Section 1 in England and Wales from 2001-05, by age group, are provided in the following table.

Information on the individual circumstances of offences is not held centrally and therefore information on the offensive weapons involved in these cases is not available.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts, found guilty at all courts and convictions as a proportion of prosecutions for 'offences in connection with dangerous weapons' under the Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959, by age group, England and Wales—2001-05[1,2]

Year/Age group	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Convictions as a proportion of prosecutions (percentage)
2001			
10-17	2	1	50
18-20	1	1	100
21 and over	8	3	38
Total	11	5	45
2002			
10-17	—	—	—
18-20	1	2	200
21 and over	4	2	50
Total	5	4	80
2003			
10-17	—	—	—
18-20	1	0	0
21 and over	7	4	57
Total	8	4	50
2004			
10-17	1	1	100
18-20	15	9	60
21 and over	10	10	63
2005			
10-17	—	—	—
18-20	1	1	100
21 and over	11	7	64
Total	12	8	67

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Note:

Prosecutions are counted by date of final outcome in the magistrates court. Guilty figures are counted by the date of sentence in both magistrates courts and Crown courts. Hence guilty figures can exceed prosecutions where they reflect cases of people being found guilty in the magistrates court and committed for sentence to the Crown court, the two events being counted in two different years.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of selling knives to under-18s in 2006. [131218]

Mr. McNulty: Information on defendants convicted of offences in 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Data from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform show that 19 persons were found guilty at all courts for the offence of selling to a person under age of 16 years a knife; knife blade, razor blade, axe and any other article which has a blade under section 141A(i) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 which was inserted by section 6 of Offensive Weapons Act 1996 in 2005 in England and Wales.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* arrests were made and *(b)* convictions were secured under section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 in each of the last five years; [131178]

(2) how many *(a)* arrests were made and *(b)* convictions were secured under section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 in each of the last five years. [131183]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on arrests for recorded crime offences under s139 and 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (as amended by s4(1) of the Offensive Weapons Act 1996) and s1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 (as amended by s2(1) of the Offensive Weapons Act 1996) are not separately identifiable within the arrests collection held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The collection is based on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by main offence group (i.e. violence against the person, robbery, burglary, criminal damage etc) only.

Information on the number of persons found guilty for the offences requested in England and Wales for the years 2001-05 is provided in the following table.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for certain offences[1, 2, 3], England and Wales 2001-05

Offence description	Statute	Year	Age group: Aged 10 to 11	Aged 12 to 14	Aged 15 to 17	Aged 18 and over	All ages
811 Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	Prevention of Crime Act 1953, Sec 1(1) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996, Sec 2(1)	2001	4	136	976	3,765	4,881
		2002	5	113	953	4,398	5,469
		2003	4	135	832	4,432	5,403
		2004	—	134	1,047	4,576	5,757
		2005	4	124	999	4,601	5,728
826 Having an article with blade or point in public place	Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996, Sec3	2001	5	128	806	3,360	4,299
		2002	2	134	812	4,333	5,281
		2003	8	147	755	4,398	5,308
		2004	5	170	817	4,792	5,784
		2005	7	186	888	4,880	5,961
827 Having an article with blade or point on school premises (2)	Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 139A(1)(5)(a) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996, Sec 4(1)	2001	—	2	6	15	23
		2002	—	6	10	3	19
		2003	2	6	7	14	29
		2004	—	11	16	10	37
		2005	1	14	17	12	44

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data for "having an article with blade or point on school premises" exclude convictions for West Mercia PFA, until clarification of these cases is obtained.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Sexual Offences: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in Hartlepool broke the terms of their sentence and order relating to child sex offences in each of the last five years; and what action was taken against those people who breached their order and condition. [131388]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The specific information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained locally only at disproportionate cost.

War Crimes

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answers of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 975W, on war crimes, for what reasons the issue of arrest warrants in each of the cases listed necessitated a review of the legal and practical issues raised by the issue of arrest warrants in international cases. [132127]

Joan Ryan: It is appropriate to consider whether in principle it is right that persons may be arrested and detained for international offences such as war crimes, genocide and torture on application by a private individual to a court before there is an opportunity for the Attorney-General to reach a view on the merits of the case and decide whether a prosecution should proceed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Bicycles: Parking

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many bicycle parking spaces are available on the House of Commons estate for *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* staff and *(c)* visitors. [131064]

Nick Harvey: There are currently 143 bicycle parking spaces on the House of Commons estate. They are situated as follows:

Colonnade: 69, (of these seven are reserved for Members only and 14 are reserved for members of the House of Commons Cycling Club).

Star Chamber Court: 48.

Norman Shaw North Inner Courtyard: 32.

Canon Row Courtyard: 12 (to be in place after Easter 2007).

The provision of parking on the estate for non-passholders is not currently compatible with maintaining a secure perimeter. Further discussions have taken place

regarding the provision of additional bicycle parking outside in the vicinity of the estate. I understand that six additional bicycle parking spaces have been agreed on Victoria Embankment near Portcullis House and that Transport for London, the highway authority, has been requested to install them as soon as possible. Other potential sites for on-street cycle parking around Parliament are being investigated by Westminster City Council and other relevant authorities.

Palace of Westminster: Temperature

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the temperature setting is for the Palace of Westminster; and if he will arrange for the temperature to be reduced. [131389]

Nick Harvey: The normal temperature setting for the Palace of Westminster is 21° C, in line with guidance from the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) guide for office spaces, but this can be adjusted according to demand from the occupants. There are many heating zones in the Palace of Westminster which have their temperatures controlled independently, therefore temperature settings may differ from area to area. The existing controls are currently being replaced with more modern ones which should enable better control and energy efficiency to be achieved.

Recycling

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will estimate what percentage of packaging and delivery containers of goods purchased by the Refreshment Department is *(a)* made from biodegradable or recycled materials and *(b)* recycled. [131063]

Nick Harvey: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The Refreshment Department does not collect any information that enables it to estimate the percentage of packaging and delivery containers made from biodegradable or recycled materials. However, returnable crates, containers or trolleys are used for most meat, dairy, and sandwich deliveries. Draught beer kegs and a small percentage of other drinks delivery containers are also returned to the supplier.

(b) The monthly total quantity of waste collected for incineration in a power plant is monitored for the entire parliamentary estate, as is the quantity of each material collected for recycling. The waste materials currently being recycled include cardboard, paper, glass, wood and metal, with 41 per cent. of waste currently being recycled. However, at present this information is not broken down by building or by Department. The Refreshment Department is actively working with Works and Estates to increase the amount of cardboard and other waste sent for recycling and a proposal to run an environment champions programme on the estate is being considered. This would require the waste arising to be monitored for each building but it is uncertain whether it would be possible to monitor the waste being collected from the Refreshment Department alone.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

China

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Ministers and *(c)* officials participated in the recent parliamentary delegation to China organised by his Department; who arranged the visit; which organisations or individuals were consulted beforehand; whether the delegation was given permission by the Government of China to visit all areas of China; whether (i) the one child policy and (ii) coercive abortion was discussed; what the cost was to his Department of the visit; whether a report on the trip was produced; whether the United Nations Population Fund provided any (A) direct funding, (B) informal support and (C) personnel; what recent representations he has received on the visit; what assistance was provided by the British embassy in China; and if he will make a statement. [132654]

Mr. Thomas: No parliamentary delegation has recently visited China to discuss family planning issues. Neither the DFID office in Beijing, the embassy or the local United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) office are aware of any such visit.

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the progress in meeting the fifth Millennium Development Goal, to improve maternal health. [131250]

Mr. Thomas: The millennium development goals (MDGs), including the fifth goal on improving maternal health, enables countries and international development partners, including DFID, to work together towards a common end. The United Nations produces an annual progress report "the Millennium Development Goals Report", outlining the progress made against each of the MDGs, including maternal health, at global and regional levels. At country level, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works with countries to track their progress against the MDGs.

DFID supports these global assessment processes and does not try to replicate them. However, DFID does track the progress of UK development investments. For example, we produce an annual report on progress in implementing our maternal health strategy "Reducing maternal deaths: evidence and action". The second annual progress report is due to be published shortly and copies will be placed in the Library of the House. The report will provide details on what we have achieved, areas where we have made less progress and what more we need to do. The report covers both our efforts in supporting Government and non-government efforts to improve maternal health (MDG 5) in countries, as well as what we have done internationally and at the policy level.

In addition at country level, a framework for annual assessment of performance is included in DFID's country assistance plans (CAP). These CAPs set out details of how DFID aims to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs.

In 2006, the international community agreed a new target under the maternal health millennium development goal (MDG 5) for "Universal Access to Reproductive Health by 2015". This is in addition to the existing target under MDG 5 to "Reduce the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters between 1990 and 2015". The new target means that access to reproductive health information, services and supplies should be available to all who need it. And it means that Governments and the international community will be held accountable for providing them. We are proud that the UK fought hard for this target and has supported subsequent work to agree appropriate monitoring indicators. One of the new proposed indicators is 'unmet need for family planning' which is an important indicator because family planning is one of the most cost effective interventions we can make towards the achievement of not only the new reproductive health target, but to the achievement of all the MDGs.

Developing Countries: Renewable Energy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to encourage the use of renewable energy in developing countries. [132506]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is committed to increasing access to reliable and affordable energy for reducing poverty and increasing economic growth in developing countries. Renewable energy has an increasingly important role to play in helping developing countries make progress towards the millennium development goals.

We are also encouraging the World Bank and other development partners to give renewable energy greater attention as part of their efforts to improve access to energy. At Gleneagles in 2005 the G8 called on the World Bank and Regional Development Banks to create a new Clean Energy Investment Framework. They have now developed their plans and are beginning to demonstrate progress.

The World Bank has scaled up its financial support for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. In August 2006, it announced a rise to $680 million in commitments in the year to June 2006, an increase of 48 per cent. compared to the previous year. This figure excludes large hydropower projects and covers solar, wind, geothermal, biomass and small (less than 10 MW) hydropower technologies.

These figures exceed the commitment they made in 2004 to increase their renewable energy and energy efficiency investments by 20 per cent. per annum over the next five years. We very much welcome this increased investment by the World Bank on clean energy. We now think that the bank needs to set out a high level of ambition for funds flowing through the Clean Energy Investment Framework over the coming years. At the recent spring meetings of the World Bank the UK called on the bank to set a range of new investment and outcome targets, including a higher target for renewable energy.

As announced in the 2007 Budget Statement, a new £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund will finance overseas development projects that deliver both poverty reduction and environmental benefits in developing countries, and help developing countries respond to climate change. This fund will support climate change adaptation, provide access to clean energy and help tackle unsustainable deforestation.

DFID is funding international networks such as the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) and the EU energy initiative (EUEI) to promote access to affordable energy services, drawing on the full menu of technology options, including renewable energy.

DFID has supported the creation of a new €220 million EU energy facility, which will start funding projects this year. This fund aims to improve access to energy, especially in Africa, and encouraged viable renewable energy proposals.

DFID is also increasing research funding for the energy sector to reflect the growing interest in clean energy for development. This year DFID launched a new five year, £3.75 million energy research programme on renewable energy and is currently scoping areas for further work.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his estimate is of the number of people who have returned to live in the South of Sudan following the end of conflict there. [132505]

Hilary Benn: The UN estimates that since the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) in January 2005, around 1 million people have returned to their homes in the South. UNHCR predicts a further 100,000 refugees will return home in 2007, in addition to 500,000 internally displaced people. The majority of the refugees will come from Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya.

DFID has channelled all its funding for the returns process through the UN-administered common humanitarian fund (CHF). Of the £68 million allocated so far by the CHF in 2007 (of which the DFID contribution makes up 60 per cent.), £6.6 million was given to support the returns process.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures the Government plan to provide to improve the security of staff in casualty departments in Northern Ireland hospitals, with particular reference to the Downe hospital, Downpatrick. [132097]

Paul Goggins: My Department is fully committed to improving health and safety protection for all health and social care staff and has taken extensive measures to minimise risk in the workplace.

Following consultation with staff in the Downe hospital the trust introduced additional security measures from March 2007. These include security patrols within accident and emergency unit from 9 pm

until midnight on Monday to Thursday and every week-end from 12 midnight to 3 am. Security staff patrols operate within both the Downshire and Downe hospital sites.

Arts: Finance

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding he plans to provide for the arts in the Province in 2007-08; and how much funding was provided in each of the last five years. [130700]

Maria Eagle: Total funding provided for the arts in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years along with planned expenditure for 2007-08 is shown in the following table:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£ 2007-08[1]
Dept of Culture, Arts & Leisure (Revenue)	8,696,672.08	11,647,937	11,883,088.23	11,518,346.80	11,140,200.10	12,200,000
Dept of Culture, Arts & Leisure (Capital)	1,450,000	0	749,590	1,534,629.53	1,061,697.55	7,700,000
Dept for Social Development	417,400	2,188,000	924,800	968,600	[2]1,863,400	785,200
Dept for Social Development (Peace II)[3]	0	0	0	0	52,400	52,200
Dept of Education	250,000	250,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	325,000
Dept of Enterprise, Trade & Investment	124,465.05	53,484.76	60,045.63	52,341.73	14,015.54	0
Office of the First Minister & Deputy First Minister	0	0	0	0	18,639.00	250,000
Dept of Agriculture and Rural Development	0	15,099.14	97,789.22	36,757.56	47,937.89	0
Total	10,938,537.13	14,154,520.90	14,065,312.08	14,460,675.62	14,548,290.08	21,312,400

[1] Planned expenditure.
[2] Provisional.
[3] These figures relate to the calendar years 2006 and 2007. The Department for Social Development has also provided funding under Peace II for various other arts-based projects amounting to £565,600 for the period 2002 to date. This amount is not included in the table.

Bus Services: Carrickfergus

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average daily passenger numbers were for each bus route to and from Carrickfergus in each month over the last three years. [131983]

David Cairns: Data are not readily available by individual bus routes from Translink. The following tables set out the daily average passenger numbers based on monthly patronage figures for those travelling to (alighting) and from (boarding) Carrickfergus in each of the last two years. Figures have not been provided in respect of 2004-05 as I am informed by Translink that data held for that year are incomplete.

2005-06	Boarding	Alighting	Monthly total	Daily average
April	11,810	12,390	24,200	807
May	11,564	12,527	24,091	777
June	12,564	13,589	26,153	872
July	12,299	12,798	25,097	810
August	13,703	14,412	28,115	907
September	12,529	14,301	26,830	894
October	10,809	12,213	23,022	743
November	9,482	10,877	20,359	679
December	10,231	11,336	21,567	696
January	8,965	10,468	19,433	627
February	8,992	10,459	19,449	695
March	9,412	11,105	20,517	662

2005-06	Boarding	Alighting	Monthly total	Daily average
Total	132,358	146,475	278,833	764

2006-07	Boarding	Alighting	Monthly total	Daily average
April	8,838	9,885	18,723	624
May	9,560	10,028	19,588	632
June	9,977	10,595	20,572	686
July	9,127	9,560	18,687	603
August	10,563	10,508	21,071	680
September	9,480	10,226	19,706	657
October	9,817	10,115	19,932	643
November	9,819	9,936	19,755	658
December	9,392	9,262	18,654	602
January	8,561	9,075	17,636	569
February	8,035	8,706	16,741	598
March	7,322	7,918	15,240	492
Total	110,491	115,814	226,305	620

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual waiting times for (i) surgery, (ii) first outpatient appointment and (iii) a diagnostic test at Northern Ireland hospitals were at the end of March (A) 2007 and (B) 2006. [132285]

Paul Goggins: Ministers set a target that, by 31 March 2006, no patient should be waiting more than 12 months for in-patient or day case treatment. No targets were set at that stage regarding waiting times for a first out-patient appointment with a consultant or a diagnostic test.

Targets were also set that, by 31 March 2007, no patient should be waiting more than six months for either a first out-patient appointment with a consultant or for in-patient or day case treatment. There were no targets set for diagnostic waiting times at 31 March 2007.

I have set new targets that, by the end of March 2008, no patient will wait more than 13 weeks for a first out-patient appointment, no more than 13 weeks for any diagnostic test, and no more than 21 weeks for surgery.

The number of patients waiting, and the length of time they were waiting in months, for (i) in-patient or day case treatment and (ii) a first out-patient appointment with a consultant, at 31 March 2006, is contained in the following table.

Timebands (months)	*In-patients*	*Out-patients*
0-2	24,233	72,355
3-5	10,635	35,763
6-8	4,717	22,609
9-11	1,848	14,833
12-14	2	8,736
15-17	1	6,518
18-20	2	5,576
21-23	4	3,616
24+	6	12,044
Total	41,448	182,050

Source:
Departmental returns CH1 and CH3

Official statistics relating to the number of patients waiting at 31 March 2007, for either a first out-patient appointment with a consultant or for in-patient or day case treatment, will not be published until June. On the basis of provisional information available to the Department at the beginning of April, with the exception of a very small number of breaches reflecting local administrative errors, no patients were waiting more than six months for in-patient or day case treatment, or for a first out-patient appointment with a consultant.

Official figures for the number of patients waiting for a diagnostic test in Northern Ireland are not available for either March 2006 or March 2007.

Portadown School

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he plans to publish the economic appraisal of the proposed capital building project at Portadown Integrated Primary School; and what the reasons are for the time taken to conclude this study and make it available. [132048]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education is aware of the accommodation deficiencies at Portadown Integrated Primary School and an initial feasibility study was produced for the school which is a stage prior to the production of the economic appraisal. Following the Bain review new capital projects should in future be considered in the context of a more co-ordinated and consistent area-based planning approach and this will need to be reflected in the appraisal. The Department will be in contact with the school as the work develops though I cannot confirm at present when the appraisal will be completed.

Sewers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) if he will list the maintenance work carried out at Millisle Sewage Pumping in each of the past three years; and what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* duration was of the maintenance carried out on each occasion; [133021]

(2) what assessment has been carried out by his Department of the health and safety implications of raw sewage leaks from Millisle's sewerage system; [133059]

(3) on what occasions since January the screens at Millisle Sewage Pumping Station were checked; and what the outcome was of the review of the adequacy of the current screen checking arrangements; [133060]

(4) if he will bring forward the project to upgrade Millisle Sewage Pumping Station scheduled to start in 2011; [133071]

(5) when he expects the Drainage Area Studies for the North Down and Ards area to be completed; and what funding has been allocated to ensure the prompt implementation of its recommendations. [133072]

David Cairns: The Water and Sewerage Services (NI) Order 2006 transferred responsibility for the delivery of water and sewerage services from the Department's Water Service Agency to a statutory water and sewerage undertaker. A Government-owned company, Northern Ireland Water (NIW) has been appointed as the undertaker and the issues raised are operational matters for it. I have asked the chief executive of NIW (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) to write to the hon. Lady in response to these questions.

South Eastern Education and Library Board: Public Appointments

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what significant decisions have been made by the four commissioners appointed to the South Eastern Education and Library Board since their appointment in 2006. [132213]

Maria Eagle: The commissioners have taken many significant decisions since their appointment in July 2006 including decisions related to financial allocations and budgets, school development proposals, youth centre provision, leasing proposals and transfer of land, and procurement contracts. All decisions that have been taken are minuted and published in the normal way in accordance with Standing Orders and details of the relevant minutes are available on the South Eastern Education and Library Board website: http:/www.seelb.org.uk

Theatres: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much public funding was granted to theatres in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; whether there are proposals to increase funding for such theatres in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [130541]

Maria Eagle: Public funding granted to theatres in Northern Ireland in the last five years is shown in the following table. Decisions on revenue funding to theatres for 2007-08 have already been made by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the total amount awarded is the same as the 2006-07 figure. The level of funding available to theatres in future years will depend on the outcome of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Arts Council Treasury Funding	1,214,100	1,271,100	1,312,000	1,461,600	1,313,879
Arts Council Lottery	178,500	271,180	133,350	28,127	192,497
Arts Council Capital Grant	104,925	2,251,716	51,161	2,585,575	174,750
Dept Culture, Arts and Leisure Capital	1,450,000	0	0	1,484,630	1,015,370
Total	2,947,525	3,793,996	1,496,511	5,559,932	2,696,496

SCOTLAND

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Department. [132195]

David Cairns: Scotland Office expenditure on hospitality, like all other departmental expenditure, is conducted in accordance with the principles of "Government Accounting" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the meetings between Ministers from his Department and outside interest groups which took place between 1 January and 31 March. [132439]

David Cairns: Ministers and civil servants meet a large number of people and groups in the course of their official duties.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Bankruptcy

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many businesses went bankrupt in each month of the last 10 years in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough. [132173]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Business (self-employed, or trader) bankruptcies are only readily available on a quarterly basis and for England and Wales (EandW). These statistics are provided in the following table. The provision of corresponding monthly data would incur disproportionate cost. A breakdown of Scottish sequestrations and Northern Ireland bankruptcies by trading status of the individual is not available. For EandW, the provision of any sub-national level business bankruptcy figures would incur disproportionate cost.

Table1: Total self-employed bankruptcies in England and Wales by calendar quarter, 1997 to 2006

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Annual total
1997	2,850	3,097	2,804	2,518	11,269
1998	2,637	2521	2,672	2590	10,420
1999	2,996	2721	2,614	2392	10,723
2000	2,571	2519	2,518	2344	9,952
2001	2,666	2609	2,414	2150	9,839
2002	2,261	2235	2,244	2114	8,854
2003	2,468	2267	2,296	2108	9,139
2004	2,437	2455	2,300	2372	9,564
2005	2,446	2835	2,850	2708	10,839
2006	3,150	2898	2,990	-	[2]9,038 to Sept

[1] Not yet available: statistics on self-employed bankruptcies are only available one quarter in arrears.
[2] To September.

To complement the personal insolvency (bankruptcy) statistics, provided in table 1, table 2 records figures for company liquidations:

Table 2: Total company liquidations by quarter in England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Yearly total
1997	3,017	3,183	3,195	3,214	12,609
1998	3,123	3,291	3,373	3,416	13,203
1999	3,741	3,653	3,428	3,458	14,280
2000	3,522	3,431	3,775	3,589	14,317
2001	3,831	3,744	3,699	3,698	14,972
2002	3,992	4,117	3,899	4,298	16,306
2003	3,672	3,795	3,380	3,337	14,184
2004	3,140	3,130	2,959	2,963	12,192
2005	2,940	3,375	3,380	3,198	12,893
2006	3,452	3,252	3,239	3,194	13,137

Broadband

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what service obligations are placed on broadband providers to extend their coverage nationally; how such obligations are regulated; and if he will make a statement. [131145]

Margaret Hodge: The Universal Service Obligation (USO) in the UK covers voice and data telephone services up to 56kbps, sufficient for dial-up internet, but not for broadband.

The UK telecommunications market is regulated by Ofcom. Ofcom has designated BT and Kingston Communications (in the Hull area) as the Universal Service Providers in the UK. Ofcom report that 50 per cent. of UK adults now have broadband at home—up from 39 per cent. a year ago and a seven-fold increase

over the last four years. More than 13 million UK homes and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are now connected to broadband, compared with 9.9 million a year earlier and 330,000 in 2001.

The European Commission is reviewing the scope and future of universal service in the EU later this year and we expect a Green Paper to be published in the autumn. The DTI will consult widely in preparing a response to the Green Paper.

Business Support

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the accessibility of Government support for small business. [117363]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 22 January 2007]:* The latest Annual Small Business Survey found that 51 per cent. of small businesses with employees surveyed would like support from Government but experience difficulties in determining what is available.

The DTI-led Business Support Simplification Programme is driving work across all levels of Government to tackle the confusion caused by the number of business support services available. By 2010 the Programme will deliver Government support for business which is easier to access, which is targeted where it will have greatest impact and which is delivered to get best value for money.

Corporate Social Responsibility Academy

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many times the Corporate Social Responsibility Academy's management committee has met in each calendar year since its inception; [132544]

(2) what the cost of the Corporate Social Responsibility Academy to the public purse was in each financial year since its inception; and if he will make a statement; [132545]

(3) how many staff are employed by the Corporate Social Responsibility Academy; [132546]

(4) if he will list the events which the Corporate Social Responsibility Academy has held in each calendar year since its inception. [132547]

Margaret Hodge: The CSR Academy was a web-based service provided as a DTI business support scheme and did not employ staff. It was run by a project director who worked with five organisations appointed as Academy programme partners:

Business in the Community;

AccountAbility;

Association of Business Schools;

Chartered Institute of Personnel Development; and

British Chambers of Commerce.

The project director completed his contract in August 2006 and the Academy transferred to Business in the Community in March 2007.

The Academy's programme partners were contracted to provide a number of services which included organising events on behalf of the Academy as follows:

Year 1—24 events

Year 2—19 events

The Academy Project Director also spoke at numerous other CSR related events.

The DTI provided funding for the CSR Academy as follows:

	£
2004-05	200,000
2005-06	250,000
2006-07	100,000

The CSR Academy did not have a management committee. The project director reported to DTI and the Academy chairman through quarterly reports and met with DTI on a regular basis.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many private businesses in the UK *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were awarded grants under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in (i) 2006, (ii) January 2007 and (iii) February 2007. [126722]

Malcolm Wicks: The following table shows the number of applications received from private businesses under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in 2006, January 2007 and February 2007.

Period	*Number of applications received*	*Number awarded grants*
April-December 2006	57	0
January 2007	37	0
February 2007	0	0

Private businesses can only apply to the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 Stream 2. This stream is a competitive process, with a number of application call deadlines planned through to March 2008. We recently completed our assessment of applications received in the first call, however no grant awards have been made as yet.

Stream 1 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 is solely for household applicants, and therefore is not applicable for a private business applicant.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the value of grants paid to householders under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme was in each month since May 2006. [127252]

Malcolm Wicks: The following table shows the value of grant paid to householders under the Low Carbon Buildings programme Phase 1 since May 2006.

Year/Month	Value (£)
2006	
May	0
June	1,600
July	4,000
August	82,205.44
September	81,379.50
October	243,359.07
November	298,575.68
December	302,001.19
2007	
January	390,058.92
February	551,966.42

Ports: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations his Department received, and from whom, in support of the prospective composite package of public funding which has subsequently been granted to East Port Great Yarmouth. [131247]

Margaret Hodge: The Department of Trade and Industry gave consent to EEDA to fund the project in March 2005, having considered the views of the Department for Transport the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Communities and Local Government), HM Treasury and the Government Office for the East of England.

The Government Office for the East of England collated representations received in relation to the project. There were 151 letters of support: 17 from stakeholders, seven from local authorities (one of the letters also listed the names of 36 companies who supported the project), four from MPs and 123 from local businesses.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry who sat on the awarding committee for the composite package of public funding which was granted to East Port Great Yarmouth. [131249]

Margaret Hodge: There was not a single awarding committee that jointly gave consent to the different strands of public funding proposed for the Great Yarmouth Outer Harbour project.

The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) commissioned a detailed economic appraisal of the proposed Outer Harbour project. This confirmed a public sector funding requirement comprising funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Objective 2 programme for the East of England and from EEDA, alongside funding from Norfolk county council and Great Yarmouth borough council.

The Department of Trade and Industry considered EEDA's application for consent to use its Development Agency funds to support the project as part of the proposed public funding package. The DTI gave its consent to EEDA in March 2005, having considered the views of the Department for Transport, the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Communities and Local Government), HM Treasury and the Government Office for the East of England.

Allocation of the ERDF funds from the East of England Objective 2 programme was then approved by the regional ERDF programming committee, chaired by the Government Office in partnership with regional agencies including EEDA, the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA), the Learning and Skills Council, the Environment Agency, the Voluntary and Community Forum and the eligible local authorities, and by the European Commission in compliance with state aid and major project notification procedures.

Small Businesses

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 637W, on small businesses, what estimate his Department has made of the number of people working in family businesses in the UK. [131662]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* It is not possible to provide precise estimates of the number of people working in family businesses in the UK from statistical data on the total business population.

Under-represented Groups

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme in reaching under-represented groups. [117324]

Margaret Hodge: The purpose of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee (SFLG) is to enable lending to any eligible small business that satisfies the accredited lender's commercial criteria for lending apart from being able to provide the security normally required. It is designed to be accessible to all qualifying small businesses, including those from under-represented groups.

Among the accredited lenders there are two Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs), which focus on lending to businesses, in disadvantaged communities, with viable business propositions but which are unable to access some or all of the finance they require from mainstream sources.

The Graham Review of SFLG recommended that the number and range of participating lenders be increased. That recommendation has been taken forward, with further lenders joining the scheme during 2007.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of different abatement measures for reducing carbon dioxide emissions from the aviation sector. [132361]

Gillian Merron: As set out in the Air Transport White Paper (2003) and its progress report (2006), the Government believe that aviation's climate change impacts are best addressed through a Global Emissions Trading scheme. This approach is endorsed by the Stern Review on the economics of climate change which strongly supports carbon pricing to ensure that economic decisions fully reflect social and environmental costs. Until a truly global solution can be found, the inclusion of aviation in the existing EU Emissions Trading scheme represents the best multilateral option available.

The UK Government have led the debate within Europe for aviation's inclusion in the EU ETS since the UK presidency of the EU in 2005. The UK welcomed the publication of the European Commission's proposal on 20 December 2006 to include aviation into the EU Emissions Trading scheme (EU ETS) and now looks to the German and Portuguese presidencies of 2007 to give this issue priority so prompt progress can be made with negotiations.

Emissions trading and other economic instruments form part of an overall strategy which includes using operational measures and new technology to minimise the environmental impact of aviation.

Biofuels: Imports

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of domestic biofuel consumption is met by imports; and if he will make a statement. [132363]

Dr. Ladyman: Total sales of biofuels in the UK in 2006 were around 264 million litres, of which around two thirds were biodiesel and one third bioethanol. The Government do not hold precise data on the country of origin of these biofuels. Our understanding is that the great majority of the biodiesel sold in the UK in 2006 was produced domestically, but all of the bioethanol was imported.

The total amount of UK-produced biofuel is set to increase significantly in future years as a result of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). Once the RTFO comes into effect in April 2008, the Government will also have much better data on the provenance of all biofuels sold on the UK market. This is because in order to receive any credits under the RTFO suppliers of renewable transport fuels will be required to provide information, where possible, on, among other things, the country of origin of the feedstock used to produce their biofuels.

Bus Services: Accidents

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving passengers on bus services were reported in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* constituency and *(b)* service provider; and if he will make a statement. [132637]

Dr. Ladyman: Tables showing the number of reported personal injury road accidents involving bus/coaches by constituency in each of the last five years have been placed in the Library of the House. 2005 is latest year for which data are available. Many of these accidents include buses/coaches which had no passenger casualties. Additionally some of the buses/coaches may have had no passengers at all. The information requested broken down by service provider is not collected.

Bus Services: Subsidies

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what limits on minimum commercial return his Department has placed on local bus routes qualifying for subsidies; and if he will make a statement. [132025]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 18 April 2007]*: Under the Transport Act 1985 local authorities have power to secure by means of subsidy contracts the provision of bus services which are necessary to meet the transport needs of their area and which would not be provided other than by subsidy. It is for individual local authorities to decide which bus services should be provided in their area under this power. It is also for them to decide the terms of contracts, and to which operators they should be awarded, after undertaking any necessary competitive tendering exercise. There are no specific limits relating to minimum commercial returns.

In best practice guidance for local authorities published in 2005 we have emphasised the importance of authorities having clearly defined criteria when procuring subsidised services, to ensure they achieve best value for money. This would include the need to take account of the overall market for bus services in their area, including services being provided commercially. A copy of this guidance is on the Department's website.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings took place between Ministers in his Department and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date was of each such meeting. [131039]

Gillian Merron: The information is as follows:

Date (week commencing)	*Minister*	*External party*
8 January	Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander)	English Welsh and Scottish Railways
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Mr. Tom Harris)	Hitachi Ltd.

Date (week commencing)	Minister	External party
15 January	Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander)	National Air Traffic Service
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Mr. Tom Harris)	Northampton Rail Users Group
		British Railways Board Residual
		First Great Western
22 January	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Mr. Tom Harris)	London Development Agency
		Parry People Movers Ltd.
29 January	Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander)	British Airways
		British Airports Association
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Mr. Tom Harris)	Westinghouse Rail Systems Ltd., UK
5 February	Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander)	Network Rail
		Virgin
		Transport for London
	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Mr. Tom Harris)	Canary Wharf Group plc
19 February	Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander)	BMI
26 February	Secretary of State (Mr. Douglas Alexander)	Network Rail
		Lothian Buses
	Minister of State (Dr. Ladyman)	National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport workers/Clyde Marine
		Brake
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Mr. Tom Harris)	Chiltern Railways
		BAA
		Canary Wharf Group
		Network Rail
		Hitachi Ltd.
5 March	Secretary of State (Mr. Douglas Alexander)	Network Rail
		Passenger Focus
		Campaign for Crossrail
		BAA
	Minister of State (Dr. Ladyman)	Freight Transport Association
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Mr. Tom Harris)	Norwood Rail Users Group, First Capital Connect
		London Travel Watch, Passenger Focus
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Gillian Merron)	Boeing
12 March	Secretary of State (Mr. Douglas Alexander)	Airbus
		EasyJet
		BA
		Maersk
	Minister of State (Dr. Ladyman)	Norwich Union Insurance
		UK Maritime Pilots Association
		Association of British Insurers
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Mr. Tom Harris)	Black Country Consortium
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Gillian Merron)	Metronet Rail
19 March	Secretary of State (Mr. Douglas Alexander)	Civil Aviation Authority
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Mr. Tom Harris)	Railfreight Interchange Investment Group
26 March	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Mr. Tom Harris)	BAE Systems Yards
		Institute of Civil Engineers

Date (week commencing)	Minister	External party
	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Gillian Merron)	UK Youth Parliament

Driving: Licensing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of fraudulent applications for driving licences in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [132993]

Dr. Ladyman: I am not able to estimate the number of fraudulent applications for driving licences. DVLA report suspect documents to the police and the following are the statistics available since July 2005 for such reports. We have no accurate data for reports prior to that date:

Between 1 July 2005 and 31 March 2006: 1,484 cases were reported. Between April 2006 and 31 March 2007: 2,463 cases were reported.

Eurotunnel

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to protect the rights of minority shareholders in the restructuring of Eurotunnel plc. [132405]

Mr. Tom Harris: Eurotunnel is a private sector entity, owned by its shareholders. Any restructuring proposals are a private matter for them.

Northern Rail

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the increased passenger numbers using Northern Rail; and what actions his Department is taking to ensure the extra capacity needed to accommodate these passengers is available. [132508]

Mr. Tom Harris: Passenger journeys on the Northern Rail network were estimated at nearly 61 million in 2004-05 and passenger numbers have grown at approximately 10 per cent. per annum in each of the past two years.

The Department continues to work closely with Northern Rail and other local stakeholders to identify and secure value for money opportunities to provide additional capacity. In recent months, Northern Rail has introduced an additional six trains to provide additional capacity in West Yorkshire, has announced an additional six trains to strengthen services into Liverpool and, in conjunction with the Department and other partners has secured the retention of eight vehicles in trains serving Leeds that otherwise would have been removed this month.

The High Level Output Specification (HLOS), to be published in summer, will set out the additional rail capacity the Government propose to buy to meet the recent and forecast growth in demand for rail travel.

The Secretary of State has already announced his intention of specifying 1,000 extra carriages to come into service between now and 2014.

It is too early to say precisely where the additional rolling stock will be used: the rail industry's October 2007 response to the HLOS will identify this. However, the most congested routes are likely to be early priorities.

Railways: Birmingham

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effect of terminating and beginning services at Birmingham on *(a)* passenger numbers and *(b)* average travel times for passengers travelling from Warrington or Glasgow to the South and South West. [132507]

Mr. Tom Harris: The specification for the New Cross Country franchise does not significantly change the number of trains terminating and beginning at Birmingham. The specification will lead to new through journey opportunities and, overall, the Department for Transport expects that the changes proposed will result in broadly the same passenger numbers. Journey times from Warrington or Glasgow to Birmingham will reduce and hence average travel times to the South and South West will be broadly similar to today.

Railways: Timetables

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how many years ahead rail timetable plans are made. [132327]

Mr. Tom Harris: Rail timetable plans that make significant adjustments to the permanent service are normally planned 18-24 months in advance.

Rail timetable plans associated with major projects to enhance capacity, such as infrastructure upgrades, may need to be planned up to five years in advance.

All rail plans including pre-planned disruption alterations, (e.g. engineering blockades), are targeted to be published 12 weeks in advance.

Transport: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations his Department received, and from whom, in support of the prospective composite package of public funding which has subsequently been granted to East Port Great Yarmouth. [131248]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Trade and Industry, Department for Transport and Government Office for the East of England received in total 151 letters in support of the Eastport project: 17 from stakeholders, seven from local authorities (one of the letters also listed the names of 36 companies who supported the project), four from MPs and 123 from local businesses.

Wolverton Station: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the budget allocated to Wolverton station for an upgrade of station buildings has been reduced. [132324]

Mr. Tom Harris: A grant was awarded from the Community Infrastructure Fund for both the enlargement of Milton Keynes station and provision of a new building at Wolverton station. There has been no reduction to the total amount.

TREASURY

Average Earnings

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average hourly pay of the lowest duo-decile of working age people in employment was in each quarter since 1997. [132411]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 April 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average hourly pay of the lowest duo-decile of working age people in employment was in each quarter since 1997. (132411)

Quarterly estimates are not available. Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. This is the standard definition used for ASHE. The ASHE does not collect information on the self employed and people who do unpaid work.

I attach tables showing the 5th percentile of Gross Hourly Pay, for all employees, for the years 1997-2006.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a one per cent. sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn schemes.

Gross hourly earnings for all employee [1] jobs

UK	5th Percentile
1997	3.35
1998	3.50
1999	3.75
2000	3.96
2001	4.08
2002	4.35
2003	4.55
2004 excl.	4.77
2004 inc. [2]	4.75
2005	4.99
2006	5.15

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

[2] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Child Tax Credit

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the cost was of child tax credit for families with children aged 16 to 19 years in full-time education and training in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what the cost is expected to be in 2007-08; [131573]

(2) what the cost was of child benefit paid to children aged 16 to 19 years in full-time education and training in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what the cost is expected to be in 2007-08. [131574]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest information on finalised child tax credit awards is for 2004-05. It is estimated that the entitlement for families with one or more children aged at least 16 at the previous 31 August was about £1.8 billion. This includes families receiving the equivalent level of support via income support or income-based jobseeker's allowance.

In 2005-06, around £.9 billion was paid in child benefit to families in respect of children aged at least 16 at the previous August.

Estimates and forecasts for later years are not available.

Civil Servants: Location

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants have been moved from London since the Lyons review. [132005]

Mr. Timms: As part of the Lyons relocation programme, by December 2006 11,068 posts had been relocated out of London and the south-east to every nation and region in the UK.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants have moved to Yorkshire and Humberside region since the Lyons review. [132006]

Mr. Timms: Of the 11,068 posts that had been relocated out of London and the south-east by December 2006, 2,287 had been moved to Yorkshire and Humberside.

Debts: Developing Countries

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps the Government are taking to protect heavily indebted poor countries and other indebted developing countries from litigation by vulture funds in British courts; [132061]

(2) what options have been discussed for Government action to pre-empt litigation by vulture funds and other commercial creditors against heavily indebted poor countries and other indebted developing countries, including within the Paris club; [132062]

(3) what steps the UK Government have taken to prevent the exploitation of developing countries by vulture funds since May 2002; [132063]

(4) what sums have been received from the Exchequer through taxation of awards made to vulture funds which have successfully sued developing country governments in British courts; [132064]

(5) if he will make a statement on the principles on fair debt restructuring, in relation to vulture funds. [132065]

Ed Balls: The Government have made clear its concern over the activities of so-called vulture funds and the problems they case for those countries that have received debt relief under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) Initiative.

The Government's action to date has focused on preventing vulture fund litigation through the elimination of commercial debts and on strengthening debt management in HIPCs. The Department for International Development (DFID) co-funds a debt management capacity building programme that, through better debt management, should help to avoid debts being sold on to potential litigators. DFID also supports the World Bank's Debt Reduction Facility, which provides grants to enable countries to buy back their commercial debts at very significant discount (on average over 90 per cent. reduction), thereby removing the potential for litigation. Since its establishment, this facility has helped eliminate around $8 billion of debt in low-income countries.

The UK has assisted HIPCs in fighting aggressive creditors. We are also encouraging the African Development Bank to develop a Legal Assistance Facility, which will offer advice to HIPC countries facing litigation. DFID has also been working with partner Governments to tackle the corruption that can make it easier for vulture funds to purchase distressed debts in the first place.

All Governments and companies have a responsibility to ensure that debts of vulnerable countries are not sold to vulture funds. The UK is working with our international partners to agree a Charter on Responsible Lending. The G20 agreed a set of Principles on Fair Debt Restructuring in 2004 and the UK fully supports this.

The Paris Club group of sovereign creditors recognise the importance of tackling vulture fund activity against HIPCs and press for comparable debt relief treatment from all creditors. The UK is an active member of this group.

HMG does not hold a record of the awards made against developing country Governments in UK courts or the identity and/or country of residence of the parties involved. Some information on existing lawsuits is published by the IMF in their HIPC Status of Implementation Report. This is available at:

http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2006/082106.pdf

Poverty: Children

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what total Government expenditure has been on policies aimed at reducing child poverty since 1997. [132542]

Mr. Timms: The Government have invested significant resources since 1997 in our commitment to halve and eradicate child poverty.

Budget 2007 announced £1 billion for the child element of the child tax credit, and £1.3 billion for the working tax credit. Along with the package of reforms to the personal tax and benefit system announced at the Budget, this will help lift around 200,000 children out of poverty.

However it is not possible to provide a complete figure for all spending aimed at reducing child poverty as this would include a large but undefined proportion of numerous Government programmes, including social housing, welfare to work, and the tax and benefit system.

As a result of personal tax and benefit measures introduced since 1997, by April 2009, families with children will have benefited from around £13 billion additional spending per year.

Suicide

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged between 55 and 59 years of age committed suicide in 2003, broken down by method of suicide chosen. [132469]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 April 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) men and (b) women aged between 55 and 59 years of age committed suicide in 2003, broken down by method of suicide chosen. (132469)

Numbers of suicides (deaths from intentional self-harm and injury or poisoning of undetermined intent) of those aged 55 to 59, which occurred in 2003 in England and Wales, are shown in the table below by sex and method.

Number of suicides[1] by sex and method[2] for those aged 55-59, England and Wales, 2003[3]

Method	*(a) Men*	*(b) Women*
Drug-related poisoning	37	45
'Other' poisoning	19	4
Hanging, strangulation and suffocation	106	22
Drowning	11	6
Firearms and explosives	13	1
Sharp objects	11	0
Jumping/falling from a high place	2	6
Jumping/lying/falling before moving object	11	6
Smoke, fire and flames	5	1
Other specified and unspecified means	21	6
Total	236	97

[1] In routine statistics, ONS defines suicides as deaths from both intentional self-harm and 'injury or poisoning of undetermined intent'. It is likely that most of these latter deaths are cases where the harm is self-inflicted but there was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves. The cause of death for intentional self-harm was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84, and the cause of death for injury or poisoning of undetermined intent was defined using ICD-10 codes Y10-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending.

[2] Suicides were grouped by method using the following ICD-10 codes. These categories are based on an article which was published in Health Statistics Quarterly 20*.

Drug-related poisoning—X60-X64, Y10-Y14
Other poisoning—X65-X69, Y15-Y19
Hanging, strangulation and suffocation—X70, Y20
Drowning—X11, Y21
Firearms and explosives—X72-X75, Y22-Y25
Sharp objects—X78, Y28
Jumping/falling from a high place—X80, Y30
Jumping/lying/falling before moving object—X81, Y31
Smoke, fire and flames—X76, Y26
Other specified and unspecified means—X83-X84, Y33-Y34

[3] Figures are for deaths occurring in the calendar year.

* Brock A and Griffiths C (2003) Trends in suicide by method in England and Wales, 1979 to 2001. Health Statistics Quarterly 20, 7-18.

Taxation: NHS

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated research on the public's willingness to pay a hypothecated NHS tax. [131958]

Mr. Timms: No such research has been undertaken.

The Chancellor set out the Government's position on hypothecation of tax to the NHS in his evidence to the Treasury Select Committee on 11 December 2001 (Treasury—Minutes of Evidence, 11 December 2001, Session 2001-2002, HC 430ii:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200102/cmselect/cmtreasy/430/430toc.htm#evidence).

Tote

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what correspondence his Department has had with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the sale of the Tote and what progress has been made with its sale; [132559]

(2) what the procedure is for his Department's approval for the sale of the Tote. [132556]

Mr. Timms: An announcement on the sale of the Tote is expected to be made shortly. The Government remain committed to proceeding with its objectives of removing the Tote from public ownership, promoting horserace pool betting and benefiting racing.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much additional income *(a)* a single parent and *(b)* a married couple with one child are entitled to if each such household has a single worker in part-time work earning their income support entitlement, assuming that each household had its rent covered in full and claimed its full entitlement to tax credits. [132656]

Mr. Timms: A single parent with one child earning the same amount as their income support entitlement is £20 a week better off than on income support in 2007-08, both before and after housing costs are taken into account. A couple with one child earning the same as their income support entitlement is around £65 a week better off before housing costs and around £18 a week better off after housing costs are taken into account.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper and publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers and publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic of each was. [129958]

Mrs. McGuire: Spend on newspaper supplements, advertorials and Featurelink in 2005-06 is in the following table.

£000

	Supplements	Advertorials	Featurelink
Jobcentre Plus—services to employers	—	15,000	—
Office for Disability Issues (Extending boundaries)	50,926	—	—
Targeting Benefit Fraud	—	—	45,231
Winter Fuel Payments	—	—	133,755
State Second Pension	—	—	187,357
Pension Credit	—	—	30,176
State Pension Deferral	—	196,154	—

Notes:
1. Figures are for 2005-06, which is the last financial year for which figures are available.
2. All costs are shown in pounds sterling and are exclusive of VAT.
3. Jobcentre Plus does not hold centrally details of what each of its Regions and Districts may have spent sponsoring or funding advertorials. We could obtain this information only at disproportionate cost.
4. The Department purchased branded advertising features which included advertorials using the commercial 'Featurelink' service.

Child Support Agency

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* total and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff were involved in processing clerical Child Support Agency cases in each month since January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [122888]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Lady with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 19 April 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many (a) total and (b) full-time equivalent staff were involved in processing clerical Child Support Agency cases in each month since January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [122888]

The number of fulltime equivalent staff working on clerical cases between January 2005 and January 2007 is provided in the attached table. Unfortunately we are unable to provide the total number of individual people involved in progressing clerical cases, as this information is not recorded.

In September 2006 the Agency transferred all of its clerical cases to the CSA Bolton site, managed by Vertex. By progressing clerical cases together in one location the Agency expects to deliver a much more efficient service to clients. CSA Bolton is currently processing over 26,000 Agency cases, and has delivered more than £7.5m in maintenance payments since its launch in September 2006.

A number of Agency people continue to be involved in clerical case progression. Their roles include the transferral of clerical cases to the CSA Bolton office, aiding in clerical case complaint resolution, and sharing best practise with the Bolton office to ensure Agency clients receive a consistent level of service.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide information concerning the number of people employed by Vertex for the clerical progression of Agency cases. As such, the information provided covers only those Agency employees engaged in clerical case progression.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Month	*Full-time equivalents processing clerical cases*
January 2005	289
February 2005	300
March 2005	301
April 2005	389
May 2005	407
June 2005	431
July 2005	454
August 2005	436
September 2005	456
October 2005	439
November 2005	463
December 2005	546
January 2006	565
February 2006	560
March 2006	596
April 2006	595
May 2006	635
June 2006	620
July 2006	613
August 2006	605
September 2006	602
October 2006	511
November 2006	454
December 2006	92
January 2007	81

Departments: Internet

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to improve the user-friendliness of his Department's website. [130929]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has a complete set of standards and guidelines on usability and accessibility on its websites. The standards are for information published on DWP internet and intranet sites. The guidelines are on strategic requirements, use of cascading style sheets, page length, the importance of accuracy, usability, accessibility and design when developing content.

DWP is committed to improving the accessibility of its own websites. All its sites are working towards complying with the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (W3C WCAG) at Level AA, in line with Cabinet Office guidance. Guidelines have been developed for site managers, and a testing and improvement programme is now in place. In a recent audit, 45 per cent. of DWP's information sites passed automated checks for level AA.

User testing of the DWP site www.dwp.gov.uk will take place in May 2007 and the results will be fed into making further improvements to the site.

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by his Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130144]

Mrs. McGuire: Information about the political activity of appointees is recorded and publicised in accordance with the Independent Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice. This shows that no former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 have since been appointed to public bodies sponsored by the Department.

Lone Parents

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents have had a benefit sanction for failure to attend a work focused interview in each of the last four years; what proportion of booked work focused interviews for lone parents resulted in a sanction in each of the last four years; and what research his Department has undertaken on the impact of sanctions on lone parents on their subsequent moves into employment. [116900]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 19 January 2007]*: The available information on the number of lone parent work focused interviews booked, and number and percentage of benefit sanctions applied, is in the table.

Lone parent work focused interview (WFI) benefit sanctions

Year WFI was first booked	*Number of WFIs booked*	*Number of sanctions applied*	*Percentage of booked WFIs sanctioned*
April 2002-March 2003	338,800	5,600	1.7
April 2003-March 2004	603,100	14,300	2.4
April 2004-March 2005	770,100	31,800	4.1
April 2005-March 2006	908,300	40,300	4.4

Note:
Data exclude quarterly WFIs which were introduced nationally from October 2005 for lone parents whose youngest child is aged 14 and over as this administrative data are not yet available for analysis.
Source:
Labour Market Service evaluation databases.

We plan to carry out research into the impact of benefit sanctions on lone parents on their subsequent moves into employment.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 20 April 2007

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church Commissioners: Licensing

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many special licences were granted in each year since 1997. [133131]

Sir Stuart Bell: These figures are not held by the central Church institutions but I understand from the Office for National Statistics that the figures for 1997 to 2004 (the latest year for which figures are available) are as follows:

	Total number of Special Licences in England and Wales
1997	1,952
1998	1,878
1999	1,861
2000	1,877
2001	1,805
2002	1,784
2003	1,966
2004	2,226

Churches: Gift Aid

Robert Key: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what assessment he has made of the impact on church income from the gift aid scheme of a reduction in the basic rate of tax following the Budget statement. [132575]

Sir Stuart Bell: We estimate that the reduction in the basic rate of tax will reduce the income of parishes up and down the country by about £7.7 million.

We do, however, welcome the fact that the Chancellor will consult the charitable sector about measures to increase the take-up of Gift Aid. We also welcome his undertaking to consider in the run-up to the Spending Review what other financial help could be given to churches.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Buildings: Greater London

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to revise planning guidance, regulations or circulars on tall buildings in London. [129193]

Yvette Cooper: There is no Government planning guidance, regulations or circulars specifically on tall buildings in London, though the Mayor of London sets out policies on tall buildings in his London Plan. In addition, the Government are currently consulting on draft directions for 11 protected vistas being proposed by the Mayor in his London Views Management Framework.

Council Housing: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people living *(a)* in Colchester local authority area and *(b)* outside the Colchester local authority area are on the Colchester housing transfer list; and what the figures were in 1997. [133373]

Yvette Cooper: Information regarding housing transfers is not held centrally. However, local authorities in England report the numbers of households (not people) on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. I refer the hon. Member to my reply given today UIN 133374.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people living *(a)* in Colchester local authority area and *(b)* outside the Colchester local authority area are on the Colchester housing waiting list; and what the figures were in 1997. [133374]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities in England report the numbers of households (not people) on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. However, the information is not broken down by whether the household is living within or outside the local authority district.

The number of households on Colchester borough council's housing waiting list, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The link for this table is given as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id::= 1163853

Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get on to the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of those voting in each large scale voluntary transfer ballot voted *(a)* for and *(b)* against transfer in each of the last three years. [131052]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is as follows.

Date tenant ballot closed	LA/scheme	Valid votes cast	Votes in favour	Percentage in favour	Votes against	Percentage against
1 April 2004	Trafford MBC	7,024	5,121	72.91	1,903	27.09
2 April 2004	Manchester CC Woodhouse Park[1]	2,149	1,993	92.7	156	7.3
14 April 2004	Wirral MBC	10,087	7,803	77.36	2,284	22.64
19 April 2004	Wakefield MDC	25,487	18,767	73.6	6,720	26.4
4 May 2004	North East Lincolnshire Council	6,335	4,249	67.26	2,086	32.74
17 May 2004	RB Kingston	3,812	1,421	37	2,391	63
21 June 2004	LB Tower Hamlets Mile End East[1]	651	364	55.9	287	44.1
21 July 2004	LB Lambeth Kennington[1]	507	304	60.08	203	39.92
27 July 2004	LB Islington SURCO[1]	227	125	55.8	102	44.2
28 July 2004	LB Islington Grove[1]	103	75	72.82	28	27.18
2 August 2004	LB Tower Hamlets, Tarling East[1]	48	37	77.1	11	22.92
18 October 2004	LB Tower Hamlets—Crossways[1]	120	108	90	12	10
22 November 2004	Halton BC	4,672	3,646	78.1	1,026	21.9
8 December 2004	Kings Lynn and W Norfolk BC	5,686	4,350	76.5	1,336	23.5
16 December 2004	Preston CC	3,939	3,188	81.4	751	18.61
20 December 2004	Manchester CC Haughton Green[1]	747	707	94.9	40	5.1
20 December 2004	LB Tower Hamlets Leopold and Burdett[1]	255	161	63.4	94	36.6
24 March 2005	LB Lambeth Clapham Park[1]	1,108	654	59.3	454	40.7
29 March 2005	Stafford BC	4,462	2,973	66.8	1,489	33.2
31 March 2005	North Norfolk DC	4,387	2,804	64	1,583	36
1 April 2005	Broxbourne BC	2,748	1,908	69.7	840	30.3
4 April 2005	North Somerset Council	4,992	3,800	76.5	1,192	23.5
4 April 2005	Ellesmere Port and Neston BC	4,210	2,027	48.2	2,183	51.8
8 April 2005	LB Tower Hamlets Island Homes[1]	605	391	65.5	214	34.5
8 April 2005	LB Tower Hamlets Island Gardens Isle of Dogs[1]	355	268	76.6	87	23.4
8 April 2005	LB Tower Hamlets St. Georges[1]	161	105	66.0	56	34
27 April 2005	Manchester CC—Hattersley[1]	1,394	1,290	92.5	104	7.46
27 May 2005	LB Tower Hamlets Sheltered[1]	208	124	60.2	84	39.8
9 June 2005	Hyndburn BC	2,562	2,027	79.2	535	20.8
12 July 2005	LB Islington Ringcross[1]	141	111	78.7	30	21.3
19 July 2005	Sedgefield BC	8,173	3,421	41.9	4,752	58.1
22 July 2005	LB Tower Hamlets—Parkside[1]	820	413	50.4	407	49.6
26 July 2005	Teesdale DC	831	733	88.2	98	11.8
17 August 2005	Macclesfield BC	4,491	2,794	62.2	1,697	37.8
18 August 2005	Sefton Council	9,113	4,089	44.95	5,024	55.05
22 September 2005	LB Tower Hamlets, Mansford[1]	212	135	64.0	77	36
22 September 2005	LB Tower Hamlets, Lincoln[1]	122	52	42.6	70	57.4
22 September 2005	LB Tower Hamlets Chicksand West[1]	112	88	78.6	24	21.4
22 September 2005	LB Tower Hamlet—Wapping[1]	363	154	42.5	209	57.5
22 September 2005	LB Tower Hamlets—Glamis[1]	117	81	69.2	36	30.8
8 November 2005	Rossendale BC	2,795	2,308	82.6	487	17.4
11 November 2005	Aylesbury Vale DC	6,308	4,690	74.4	1,618	25.6
11 November 2005	Sheffield CC Shiregreen[1]	2,304	1,979	85.9	325	14.1
2 December 2005	Manchester CC W Wythenshawe[1]	5,065	4,480	88.7	585	11.3
5 December 2005	Derwentside DC	5,322	4,028	75.7	1,294	24.26
9 December 2005	Waverley BC	4,095	1,926	47.25	2,169	52.75
12 December 2005	West Lancs DC	4,683	1,984	43	2,699	57
13 December 2005	Sefton Council	7,261	5,172	71.4	2,089	28.6
19 December 2005	LB Lambeth Stockwell Park[1]	786	621	79.1	165	20.9
21 December 2005	LB Tower Hamlets Longnor Norfolk and Osier[1]	175	80	45.7	95	54.3
21 December 2005	LB Tower Hamlets Stepney Green and Clichy[1]	369	138	37.4	231	62.6
21 December 2005	LB Tower Hamlets Exmouth[1]	255	199	78.0	56	22
21 December 2005	LB Tower Hamlets Cranbrook[1]	195	55	28.2	140	71.8

Date tenant ballot closed	LA/scheme	Valid votes cast	Votes in favour	Percentage in favour	Votes against	Percentage against
21 December 2005	LB Tower Hamlets Granby Hereford[1]	203	74	36.5	129	63.5
21 December 2005	LB Tower Hamlets Barleymow[1]	140	62	44.3	78	55.7
21 December 2005	LB Tower Hamlets Lansbury[1]	377	232	61.5	145	38.5
22 February 2006	Mid Devon DC	3,054	744	24.4	2,310	75.6
24 February 2006	LB Tower Hamlets Holland[1]	173	128	74.0	45	26
10 March 2006	Selby DC	3,021	1,055	34.5	1,966	65.5
10 March 2006	LB Tower Hamlets Devons[1]	326	175	53.7	151	46.3
10 March 2006	LB Tower Hamlets Bow Bridge[1]	159	114	72.2	45	27.8
15 March 2006	Pendle BC	2,917	2,453	84.4	464	15.6
27 March 2006	Cannock Chase DC	4,696	2,260	48.1	2,436	51.9
28 March 2006	North Lincolnshire Council	7,960	5,012	63.0	2,948	37
31 March 2006	Waveney DC	4,508	1,458	32.3	3,050	67.7
27 April 2006	South Gloucestershire Council	6,314	4,032	64.0	2,282	36
13 July 2006	Sheffield CC Loxley Wadsley Wisewood[1]	574	437	76.1	137	23.9
28 July 2006	LB Tower Hamlets Collingwood and Horwood[1]	451	224	49.7	227	50.3
8 August 2006	Chorley BC	2,378	1,499	63.1	879	36.9
28 September 2006	LB Tower Hamlets Boundary[1]	256	32	12.6	224	87.4
28 September 2006	LB Tower Hamlets Locksley[1]	304	105	34.5	199	65.5
28 September 2006	LB Tower Hamlets Cleveland[1]	127	53	41.7	74	58.3
28 September 2006	LB Tower Hamlets Ocean[1]	666	248	37.3	418	62.7
3 November 2006	LB Tower Hamlets Dinmont[1]	31	29	93.5	2	6.5
3 November 2006	LB Tower Hamlets East India[1]	464	365	78.8	99	21.2
10 November 2006	Watford BC	3,497	1,902	54.5	1,595	45.5
13 November 2006	South Kesteven DC	4,791	1,278	26.8	3,513	73.2
29 November 2006	Salisbury DC	4,810	1,377	28.7	3,433	71.3
1 December 2006	Gravesham BC	4,903	685	14	4,218	86
6 December 2006	North Shropshire DC	1,872	1,481	79.5	391	20.5
7 December 2006	Fenland DC	3,257	1,747	53.9	1,510	46.1
7 December 2006	LB Islington Packington[1]	319	285	89.3	34	10.66
13 December 2006	LB Lewisham Phoenix[1]	2,976	2,023	68.7	953	31.3
14 December 2006	Daventry DC	2,638	2,025	76.8	613	23.2
15 December 2006	Castle Morpeth BC	1,997	1,745	87.4	252	12.6
15 December 2006	Braintree DC	6,910	4,304	62.3	2,606	37.7
15 December 2006	Rochford DC	1,491	1,234	82.8	257	17.2
15 December 2006	Wellingborough BC	3,500	2,616	74.7	884	25.3
18 December 2006	Taunton Deane BC	4,802	1,502	31.3	3,300	68.7
18 December 2006	Sheffield CC Harold Lambert Court[1]	536	416	77.6	120	22.4
18 December 2006	LB Sutton Roundshaw[1]	364	214	58.8	150	41.2
18 December 2006	Sheffield CC Lower Manor[1]	919	808	87.9	111	12.1
18 December 2006	Sheffield CC Wybourn[1]	736	541	73.5	195	26.5
21 December 2006	Tower Hamlets Alfred and Malmesbury[1]	338	167	49.4	171	50.6
2 February 2007	Sheffield CC Hyde Park Walk and Terrace[1]	135	101	74.8	34	25.2
2 February 2007	Sheffield CC Richmond Park, Birklands and Athelstan[1]	428	304	71.0	124	29
20 February 2007	Brighton and Hove CC	8,744	2,014	23	6,730	77
5 March 2007	Manchester CC South[1]	4,943	2,904	58.9	2,039	41.1
15 March 2007	Chester Le Street DC	3,712	2,251	60.6	1,461	39.4
16 March 2007	Wansbeck DC	4,299	3,648	84.9	651	15.1
21 March 2007	Harborough DC	1,800	1,375	76.4	425	23.6
26 March 2007	Mole Valley DC	3,011	2,587	85.9	424	14.1
30 March 2007	Torridge DC	1,551	1,304	84.1	247	15.9
30 March 2007	Liverpool CC Remainder of stock[1]	11,100	8,653	78.0	2,447	22
10 April 2007	Bracknell Forest BC	4,560	3,453	75.7	1,107	24.3

[1] Denotes partial area.

Council Housing: Street Warden Scheme

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities make an additional charge on council house rents to pay for street wardens. [127659]

Yvette Cooper: We do not collect information centrally on local authority funding for particular warden schemes.

Council Housing: Westminster

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes she expects to be upgraded in Westminster under the Decent Homes Initiative over the life of the programme; and how much she expects the Government to have spent on the programme over its lifetime. [126445]

Yvette Cooper: In the City of Westminster there are 12,407 homes owned by the local authority and managed by City West Homes the Council's arm's length management organisation. The Government have allocated £74 million in supported capital expenditure to City West Homes between 2002 and 2006 for its decent homes programme.

Local authorities started reporting on decent homes in 2002. Between 2002 and 2006 the number of non-decent council homes in Westminster was reduced by 9,665. At 1 April 2006 there were still 1,182 non-decent council homes. Data by local authority for registered social landlords (RSLs) have only been collected since 2005. Between 2005 and 2006 the number of non-decent RSL homes was reduced by 167. At 1 April 2006 there were still 1,706 non-decent RSL homes.

The decent homes programme also covers non decent homes in the private sector occupied by vulnerable households but we do not hold these data at the local authority level.

The cost per house of meeting the decent homes standard varies across the country and the Department does not collect those figures separately. Some local authorities are refurbishing the houses in their area significantly above the decent homes standard. What the improved standard is and how it will be achieved will be determined by local circumstances and the level of resources that can be brought to the programme locally. The Government expect over £31 billion to be spent on refurbishing council homes by 2010, this includes local authorities' own investment and raising houses above the decent homes standard.

Departments: Consultants

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessor spent on *(a)* consultants and *(b)* advertising in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06. [130102]

Angela E. Smith: In respect of the spend on consultants I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by Baroness Andrews to Lord Smith of Clifton on 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column WA61.

The spend on advertising in 2004-05 and 2005-06

	£ million
2004-05	5.04
2005-06	4.7

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated total budget is of the Home Condition Report database. [129252]

Yvette Cooper: The Home Condition Report Register is provided under a concession agreement so there is no cost to Communities and Local Government.

Homebuy Scheme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many individuals have completed a sale to part-own or own their social home under the Social Homebuy scheme; [129227]

(2) how many *(a)* housing associations and *(b)* local authorities are offering the Social Homebuy scheme. [129230]

Yvette Cooper: 33 Social Homebuy sales were completed up to the end of February 2007 and there are 575 applications in the pipeline. The sales are mainly from the four first housing association pilots.

41 housing associations and two local authorities have now begun offering the scheme to their tenants as part of the Social Homebuy pilot. We expect a further 37 housing associations and six more local authorities to do so by April 2007.

Housing: Carbon Monoxide

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the percentage of private homes in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region which have carbon monoxide levels higher than those deemed safe by the World Health Organisation. [131017]

Angela E. Smith: While data are collected for carbon monoxide emissions and carbon monoxide related fatalities, no statistics are routinely collected about carbon monoxide levels in homes.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projections the Government have made of the future net financial position of housing revenue authorities over the next five years on the basis of current policy. [128319]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 March 2007]*: This Department does not make forecasts of future net financial positions on a local authority basis.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of providing new houses for key workers by *(a)* purchase assistance, *(b)* purchase from housing associations and *(c)* construction of (i) social housing and (ii) council housing. [119833]

Yvette Cooper: The Government offer specific housing assistance to key workers in areas experiencing problems of recruitment and retention difficulties under the key worker living (KWL) scheme. The scheme operates in London, the south east and east of England. Key worker living funding is divided between Open Market HomeBuy (equity loans to purchase properties on the open market) and new build products such as New Build HomeBuy (shared ownership of newly built homes) and intermediate rent (where the rent is set at a level between that charged by social and private landlords).

On 2 October 2006 Open Market HomeBuy was re-launched in partnership with four mortgage lenders. Half of the equity loan is provided by Government and half by the mortgage lender. This reduces the level of public sector subsidy required making it possible to help more people into different forms of shared ownership. The average grant per unit for key worker Open Market HomeBuy completions in the current financial year prior to the re-launch of the product was £39,687. Currently the average grant rate per unit for key workers that have purchased under the new Expanded Open Market HomeBuy product is £26,762.

The estimated average grant per unit for New Build HomeBuy properties in the three key worker living regions under the national affordable housing programme for 2006-2008 is £34,623.

We do not collect data on key worker access to social rented properties. The average cost of providing a social rented unit nationally was £133,941 of which £62,000 was the average public subsidy in the form of grant. Statistics are not collected on the construction costs specifically of new council housing.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to bring forward proposals to establish a common definition of community land trust in statute law. [127160]

Yvette Cooper: The Department is currently examining what further action may be required to facilitate development of the community land trust model.

Housing: South East Region

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effect of Planning Policy Statement 3 on the number of dwellings that will be built on greenfield sites in the south-east. [131622]

Yvette Cooper: No specific assessment has been made of the effect of Planning Policy Statement 3: "Housing" on the numbers of dwellings likely to be built on greenfield sites in the south-east. This will depend on the decisions of local planning authorities in identifying suitable locations for housing to meet the needs of households in their areas, as well as their wider planning policies, especially in relation to the density of housing development.

PPS3 gives local planning authorities the tools and flexibilities they need to ensure that priority is given to the development of brownfield sites, including by taking stronger action to bring more brownfield land back into use, by setting targets and trajectories for brownfield development which reflect local circumstances, and by managing the release of land over time to deliver against those targets and trajectories.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes in the south-east were built on windfall sites in each year between 2001 and 2006. [131624]

Yvette Cooper: This information is not held by the department.

Housing: Surveys

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the collation of data for the next English Housing Survey. [129273]

Yvette Cooper: The Department currently conducts two continuous housing surveys: the Survey of English Housing and the English House Condition Survey. However, these are to be merged into a single survey, the English Housing Survey, which will start in April 2008 with fieldwork conducted throughout the year.

The proposed timetable for the publication of annual reports from the existing surveys is:

Survey of English Housing

Report for the year	*Date of publication*
2005-06	September 2007
2006-07	May 2008
2007-08	May 2009

English House Condition Survey annual reports are published every May. The report for 2005 will be published in May 2007.

The timetable for publishing outputs from the new English Housing Survey has not been finalised. Some preliminary reports based on the first survey year (2008-09) may be published towards the end of 2009.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department is *(a)* gathering and *(b)* compiling data on individual homes for its housing surveys. [129275]

Yvette Cooper: The Department conducts two continuous housing surveys, the Survey of English Housing and the English House Condition Survey. Both are sample surveys that involve interviewing households at randomly selected addresses in England. Property inspections are also conducted as part of the English House Condition Survey.

In accordance with the National Statistics Code of Practice, no information is published that would enable individuals or their addresses to be identified. Moreover, the identities of participating households are anonymous; and their addresses are known only to the survey teams.

Local Government Finance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to make available to local authorities that part of this year's local authority Business Growth Initiative awards which has been withheld; and what assessment she has made of the impact on local authority budgets of the withholding of those awards. [132747]

Mr. Woolas: As we have previously announced, in the three years to 2007-08 local authorities will receive up to £1 billion through the Local Authority Business Growth Initiative. We have abolished the ceiling but due to judicial reviews brought by Corby and Slough borough councils, this year payments have been scaled back to 70 per cent. of their value to protect the important incentive this scheme creates for authorities both in this year and next year. Authorities received £316 million this year which is more than two and a half times the £126 million of grant paid last year and 50 more authorities received LABGI grant this year than last.

There is therefore a detrimental effect on local authorities due to the action of Slough and Corby councils. I have made no assessment of this impact.

Planning: Aviation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether, under Planning Policy Statement 3, open land associated with an airfield and used for recreational aviation will be potentially subject to development; and if she will make a statement; [131225]

(2) whether, under Planning Policy Statement 3, the Government have changed their policy on the protection of airfields from development; and if she will make a statement. [131256]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green) on 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 500W.

Public Footpaths

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 152-3W, on public footpaths, whether the requirements placed on local planning authorities in respect of changes to rights of way also apply in respect of the proposed creation of new public footpaths, cycleways and bridle paths. [128111]

Yvette Cooper: The proposed creation of new public footpaths and bridleways is covered by the Public Paths Orders Regulations 1993, as set out in the answer given to the hon. Member for Colchester on 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 152-3W.

There are three ways of creating new cycle tracks:

(a) New cycle tracks can be created under powers in section 24(2) of the Highways Act 1980. Planning permission is usually required for this.

(b) Cycle tracks can be created by converting an existing footpath, or part of a footpath, by an order made under the Cycle Tracks Act 1984, to which the Cycle Tracks Regulations 1984 apply. These require consultation with one or more organisations representing persons using the footpath, any local authority, parish council or community council whose area the footpath is situated, statutory undertakers and the local police.

(c) Cycle tracks can also be created by converting part of the footway (the pavement adjacent to a road) by an order under the Highways Act 1980. There are no statutory procedures for footway conversions, but proposals are advertised by site notices and notices in local newspapers, following the appropriate council resolution.

Advice on the conversion of footpaths and footways is contained in Local Transport Note 2/86 "Shared Use by Cyclists and Pedestrians" and advice on the establishment of new cycle tracks is to be found in Local Transport Note 1/89 "Making Way for Cyclists", which also provides advice on footway conversion notices.

Regional Government

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many regional assemblies are reviewing their social, economic and environmental partners membership; and at what cost. [131207]

Yvette Cooper: Regional assemblies as voluntary bodies decide their own composition so long as a minimum of 30 per cent. of their members represent social, economic and environmental partners as set down in their letters of designation. Regional assemblies will review their membership following local government elections each year. The south west and east of England regional assemblies are currently undertaking a review of their regional stakeholder members. This is being undertaken in the ordinary course of business at no additional cost.

The Yorkshire and Humber assembly has recently commissioned a study into the role of social, economic and environmental partners, with the aim of ensuring that all partners are supported in helping deliver the broad objectives agreed by the region. The total cost of the work is £7,980.

Regional Planning and Development: Eastern Region

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which social, economic and environmental partners receive *(a)* subscription and *(b)* grant money from the East of England Regional Assembly; and at what total cost. [132245]

Yvette Cooper: The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) does not pay subscriptions to partnerships, nor does it provide grants for which organisations can apply. However, as part of its purpose to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the region, it does contribute its funds towards a range of initiatives undertaken by regional partners.

In 2006-07 EERA allocated approximately £150,000 towards the work of regional organisations which carry out social, economic or environmental initiatives, £75,000 of which was allocated to the East of England Sustainable Development Round Table and its associated Climate Change Partnership. Similar amounts are proposed for 2007-08. Further details of projects or partners which have received support from EERA are contained in its Annual Business Plans available at the EERA website.

Rents: North West Region

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how many Rentcharge payers the Government Office for the North West has arranged to receive Rentcharge redemption in each of the last five years. [127904]

Yvette Cooper: In the period 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2006, the National Rentcharge Unit received 1,786 applications for redemption. Of these, 214 are still under consideration, 667 were redeemed and 905 were not redeemed.

	Cases received	*Redeemed*	*Not redeemed*	*Total*
2002	445	139	306	445
2003	406	156	250	406
2004	299	146	153	299
2005	310	152	158	310
2006	326	74	38	[1]112
Total	1,786	667	905	1,572

[1] Cases still under consideration—214.

A regional breakdown is not available.

Right to Buy Scheme

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers housing associations and trusts have to impose a two-year moratorium on the selling of houses under right-to-buy legislation. [130610]

Yvette Cooper: Social landlords have no general power to suspend the right-to-buy. However, the availability of the right-to-buy may be affected either by demolition plans or by the tenant's own behaviour.

Where there are plans to demolish the property, service on the tenant of an initial demolition notice suspends the right-to-buy by preventing the tenant from forcing the landlord to complete the sale. Once a final demolition notice has been served, the right-to-buy no longer arises. An initial demolition notice can last up to five years. The final demolition notice must specify, demolition within 24 months (but may be extended by direction of the Secretary of State).

A landlord may also seek an order from the court suspending the right-to-buy for a specified period on the grounds of antisocial behaviour by the tenant. A tenant may not compel a landlord to complete a right-to-buy sale if an application for a demotion order, or for a suspension order or possession order on the grounds of antisocial behaviour is pending against him or her. In addition, where a tenant is in arrears of rent the landlord cannot be forced to complete the sale so long as payment of the arrears remains outstanding.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Olympic Games

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 871W, on the Olympic games, what estimate has been made of how the £1.5 billion benefit to the London economy from the games will be apportioned between the London boroughs. [132500]

Mr. Caborn: The likely economic benefit to individual London boroughs of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games is not yet known. DCMS and our Olympic partners are continuing to analyse and evaluate the many economic, social, cultural and sporting benefits for London, and all sections of the UK, from hosting the games.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department plans to take to ensure that south west London boroughs share in the *(a)* economic, *(b)* social and *(c)* sporting benefits arising from the 2012 Olympic Games. [132580]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic Board has agreed that the Mayor will be responsible for delivering the games' social, economic and environmental benefits for London, as well as improving sports participation at community and grass roots level for all Londoners. As a result, the Greater London Authority (GLA), on behalf of the Mayor, has co-ordinated the preparation of a detailed delivery plan for each of the Olympic sub-objectives relating to London, looking at how potential benefits can be realised for all boroughs, including those located in the south west.

These plans include the summer of sport competitions, the employment and skills taskforce and the pre-volunteer programme, for which Croydon is a pilot borough.

In addition, Wimbledon will host the Olympic tennis tournament in 2012.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people were charged for television licence evasion in Lancashire in each of the past five years. [127097]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

Local information on charging is not centrally held.

Data on the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to television licence evasion in the Lancashire police force area in the years 2001 to 2005 can be found in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to TV licence evasion in Lancashire police force area[1,2]

	Prosecuted	Found guilty
2001	4,720	4,292
2002	5,058	4,753
2003	3,824	3,444
2004[3]	4,145	3,733
2005	6,270	5,762

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The TV licensing provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 were replaced by new provisions in the Communications Act 2003 which came into effect 1 April 2004.

Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Compensation Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library *(a)* the Defence Analytical Services Agency statistical information and *(b)* feedback from (i) users and (ii) claimants on the analysis of the first year of the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. [132291]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 31WS. A copy of the report is available in the Library of the House. The report is also available on the Service Pensions and Veterans Agency (SPVA) website:

http://www.veterans-uk.info/pdfs/afcs/afcs_evalreport0506.pdf

Armed Forces: Deployment

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether guidelines exist on how far in advance of deployment a battalion's flight dates should be confirmed; and if he will make a statement. [131982]

Mr. Ingram: Formal guidelines are laid down on how far in advance flight dates should be confirmed to battalions. Defence Instructions and Notices number 03-020 states that detailed itineraries and arrangements for all tasks are to be issued, generally two weeks before the task date. In practice, however, for operations and exercises, battalions are normally given at least 10 to 30 days notice of departure.

In all situations the guiding principle is to give soldiers as much notice as possible of likely departure dates.

Armed Forces: Drugs

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the Directorate of Army Personnel Strategy following its examination of factors which lead to drug use among soldiers referred to in the answer of 17 May 2006, on armed forces (drug offences), *Official Report*, columns 952-3W. [132212]

Derek Twigg: The Directorate of Army Personnel Strategy's examination of factors which lead to drug use among soldiers is not yet complete. I will consider placing a copy of the report in the House Library when it becomes available.

Bombs

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what munitions testing has been undertaken of the ERBS M85 cluster bomb; and what the failure rate is of the self-destruct mechanism. [131014]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* There have been a number of trials of the 155 mm L20A1 Extended Range Bomblet Shell, which contains M85 bomblets. When the totality of test and acceptance firings is analysed over the life of the munition, the average bomblet failure rate is approximately 2 per cent. As part of its ongoing quality and performance regime the MOD continues to actively monitor the performance of this system and explore ways of reducing the failure rate still further in partnership with the supplier.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were redeployed to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan within (i) one month, (ii) two months, (iii) three months, (iv) four months, (v) five months, (vi) six months, (vii) one year and (viii) two years of completing their last deployment in each of the last three years. [128237]

Mr. Ingram: Deployment figures are currently provided at aggregate levels based on manual returns. They are not available in central individual level databases. As such these data could not be collated without incurring disproportionate cost.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason UK forces operate north of Baghdad; and if he will make a statement. [132619]

Des Browne: UK forces operate in and around Baghdad, including north of the city, in order to provide support to coalition operations, mentoring and training of Iraqi Security Forces and the provision of Force Protection to UK military and civilian personnel based in and around the city.

Iraq: Police

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of militia infiltration into the Iraqi Police Service; what risk this poses to joint patrols; and if he will make a statement. [131980]

Mr. Ingram: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 157W.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he has received representations on the safety of Nimrod aircraft from fleet flight crew since September 2006; [126588]

(2) whether he received representations on the safety of the Nimrod fleet before September 2006; [126589]

(3) what representations he has received on the use of fuel lines on Nimrod aircraft. [126481]

Mr. Ingram: Representations has been defined as parliamentary questions and letters from third parties to Ministers.

Defence Ministers did not receive any official representations on the safety of the Nimrod fleet or the use of fuel lines on Nimrod aircraft from January 2006 to September 2006. Looking back beyond this date could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Since September 2006, whilst Defence Ministers have received official representations on the safety of Nimrod aircraft from members of the public, none of these referred to the use of fuel lines on the aircraft. I have no evidence to suggest that any of these representations were from serving flight crew.

In recent weeks the Department has received three requests under the Freedom of Information Act on the safety of Nimrod aircraft and on the use of fuel lines on the aircraft. There is no evidence to suggest that any of these requests are from serving flight crew.

War Pensions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many letters the Veterans Agency has written to personnel in March 2007 waiting for *(a)* war disablement pensions and *(b)* Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments; and if he will make a statement. [131721]

Derek Twigg: We do not hold specific data on the total number of letters sent to those claiming war disablement pensions and payments under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Science: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 701W, on science: curriculum, (1) what consultation has taken place on the content of the national curriculum planning guidance; [130264]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the national curriculum planning guidance. [130265]

Jim Knight: As part of the consultation on the secondary curriculum review, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is seeking views on general draft supporting materials. The materials have been designed to be used on the website and can be found at:

http://www.qca.org.uk/secondarycurriculumreview/

An extract has been placed in the House Library.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Horses: Databases

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he expects *(a)* the information from the National Equine Database to be available to members of the public and *(b)* members of the public to be able to retrieve (i) statistics on the number of racehorses slaughtered each year, (ii) the ages of racehorses at the time of slaughter and (iii) the reasons for the slaughter of racehorses. [131245]

Barry Gardiner: The National Equine Database (NED) was developed to hold centrally the information confined in horse passports. This is to prevent theft and aid the early recovery of horses and, in terms of veterinary surveillance, help control equine disease outbreaks.

The NED system has been enhanced to hold pedigree, performance, evaluation and grading information on each horse born or resident in the UK with a passport. The enhanced system will be called NED Online and will be available for the public to use. Some of the information will be free and some will be available for a fee, although horse owner names and addresses are confidential to the Government. Currently, when a horse is slaughtered, basic equine identification information is collected including the passport issuing body (for racehorses this would be Weatherbys) and submitted to NED. However, not all horses with a Weatherbys passport race.

As NED Online develops, its facilities will continue to improve in line with users' requirements. However, there are no plans as yet to enable members of the public to retrieve details of slaughtered racehorses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bangladesh

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of recent attacks by Muslim extremists against the judiciary in Bangladesh. [132566]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of reports that the prosecutor in the trial of leading militants has been shot. However, no individual has been charged and we are not aware of any militant organisation having claimed responsibility.

Chad: Peace Keeping Operations

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response she plans to make to the conclusions of the recent UN mission to the Central African Republic and Chad on the measures needed to bring peace and stability to eastern Chad. [132030]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* We are very concerned about the humanitarian situation in eastern Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR)

and the spill over of violence from Darfur. We take every opportunity to call on the Governments of Chad and Sudan to implement their commitments to respect each other's borders and honour their obligations to protect their citizens.

On 27 February, Assistant Secretary-General Hedi Annabi briefed the UN Security Council, in closed consultations, on the Secretary-General's recommendations for deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in Chad and CAR following a second Technical Assessment Mission to the two countries.

The UK will continue to work with the UN and partners on the Security Council to create the necessary conditions for a UN mission to Chad and CAR, as called for under UN Security Council Resolution 1706. On 16 April my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stated to the Security Council that agreement is needed for a UN peacekeeping operation in Chad.

EC External Trade

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has *(a)* made to the EU and *(b)* received on the negotiations on economic partnership agreements with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. [132066]

Mr. Hoon: The Government are working closely with the European Commission who are negotiating economic partnership agreements on behalf of the EU, EU member states and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. They listen carefully to the views of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) while doing so to ensure that these agreements are truly development-focused and designed to deliver long-term development, economic growth and poverty reduction in ACP countries.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is leading the UK representation on these negotiations supported in its work by the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

Recent representations:

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development met with ACP Ministers and negotiators in November 2006.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade met NGOs on 11 January. He and my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, meet with them three to four times a year.

As part of the Trade Policy Consultative Forum my right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade meets quarterly with NGOs and the business community to discuss a variety of trade policy issues—Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) usually feature on the agenda; the next meeting will be in May.

DTI and DFID officials met with Richard Bernal, Caribbean negotiator, on 14 March.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development met with ACP and EU Ministers in Bonn on 1 March at the EU-ACP Joint Ministerial Trade Committee.

DTI officials met with Peter Thompson, Director-General Trade in charge of EPAs on 26 March.

UK officials have discussions with the Commission and other EU member states on a daily basis/at/around ACP and 133 meetings and in the margins.

Also, UK officials meet with officials from other member states on a quarterly basis.

DTI, DFID and FCO officials met with NGOs on 17 April.

Honours

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the individuals who are not UK citizens who were awarded honours in the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, indicating in each case the *(a)* date of announcement, *(b)* honour in question and *(c)* reason for the award. [131058]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* As the information requested is lengthy, I will arrange for it to be placed in the Library of the House and will arrange for a copy to be sent directly to the hon. Member.

As honorary awards to citizens of countries where Her Majesty the Queen is not Head of State are not formally announced, the date of the Queen's formal approval of such awards has been given.

Maldives: Politics and Government

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the recent police beatings of the chairman of the Maldivian Democratic Party and the political situation in the Maldives; and if she will make a statement. [132964]

Dr. Howells: Our high commission in Colombo, also accredited to Maldives, has been in regular contact with the Maldivian Government and with officials of Maldivian Democratic Party about the arrest and treatment of Mohammed Nasheed. Mr. Nasheed has now been released. We have made clear to the Government that any allegations against the police should be investigated fully and transparently. Law enforcement agencies should abide by the rule of law and any measures to maintain law and order should be proportionate.

The recent collapse of the inter-party talks in Maldives was a setback for the reform agenda. Our high commissioner in Colombo has urged the parties to resume formal talks as soon as possible and to work together constructively to accelerate the implementation of the Roadmap for Reform Agenda.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further measures she plans to support at the UN and within the EU in order to put pressure on Sudan to abide by its agreements and accept the hybrid AU-UN peacekeeping force. [132027]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 18 April 2007]*: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary chaired a meeting of the UN Security Council on 16 April to take stock of recent international efforts on Darfur, and to make the case for further measures to pressure the Government of Sudan and rebel movements to abide by their agreements. During that meeting she welcomed the announcement by the Government of Sudan the same day accepting deployment of a heavy support package, and called on them to accept the rapid deployment of a full African Union-UN hybrid force, as well as an immediate ceasefire and a resumption of the political process. If they do not, we will be forced to press for tougher measures, including further targeted sanctions and an expansion of the arms embargo.

Following UK lobbying, the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council adopted strong conclusions in January and in March on the need for Sudan to abide by its international obligations. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to Chancellor Merkel on 21 March to reiterate this ahead of the 25 March European Council. We continue to press the EU to maintain this position.

HEALTH

Carers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department has taken to provide respite support for carers as referred to in paragraph 5.55 of the Our Health, Our Care, Our Say health White Paper. [131924]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We plan to issue guidance to local authorities in the summer of 2007 to help them design services based on principles that reflect best practice in the provision of planned emergency cover. We are making £25 million available to support implementation of the guidance from October 2007. The funds are additional to the £185 million carers' grant which helps local authorities support carers through the provision of much needed breaks. The new money is intended to ensure that cover is available in the event of a crisis or an emergency.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the number of people diagnosed with bowel cancer as a result of participating in the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme. [131163]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Billericay (Mr. Baron) on 22 March, *Official Report*, column. 1128W. These are the latest available figures.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the demand for FOB testing kits outside the 60 to 69 age range for the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme. [131164]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: 3,383 men and women aged 70 and over had opted in to the NHS bowel cancer screening programme as at 23 March 2007.

Dental Services: Birmingham

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions patients who met current acceptance criteria for restorative dentistry at Birmingham Dental Hospital have not been given a referral on the ground that there was not the capacity within the NHS waiting list target times for the patient to be seen. [131049]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The information requested is not centrally collected. However, the Department has made it clear that clinical priority must be the main determinant of when patients are treated.

Dental Services: Children

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children received orthodontic treatment in each year between 2002 and 2006; and how many have received such treatment in 2006-07. [129017]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is provided for the years ending March 2002 to March 2006. Information for the year ending March 2007 is not yet available.

Number of children receiving national health service general dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS) orthodontic treatment, England only, April 2001 to March 2006

Year ending March	*Number of children treated*
2002	524,205
2003	523,422
2004	552,332
2005	573,109
2006	591,064

Notes:
1. Data are for claims scheduled for the financial years ending March 2002 to March 2006 in both GDS and PDS.
2. The number of children treated is based on the claims containing at least one orthodontic treatment which were processed at the DPD during the year stated.
3. The claims for orthodontic treatment may have been for a transitional payment, complete treatment or incomplete treatment.
4. Orthodontic treatment is as defined under items 32, 55e and 55f of the statement of dental remuneration.
5. Children are defined as patients under 18 on the date of acceptance for treatment.
6. Patients have been identified by using surname, first initial, gender and date of birth.
7. England data are for both GDS and PDS.
8. Because of the transition arrangements from GDS to PDS, patients may have been double counted. For orthodontic cases, which have long durations, this could be a serious distortion.

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority Dental Practice Division.

Dental Services: Northamptonshire

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residents in Northamptonshire were registered with an NHS dentist *(a)* in April 2006 and *(b)* in the most recent month for which figures are available. [131572]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The information requested is not held in the format required.

Registration data no longer form part of the data available under the new national health service dental contract; the new measure is patients seen within the last 24 months and is available at primary care trust level. In response to part *(a)*, data are available as at 31 March 2006. In response to part *(b)* the latest data available are as at 31 December 2006.

Both datasets can be found in annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England quarter 3: 31 December 2006" report, which is available in the Library and is available at www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental06q3

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residents in *(a)* Kettering, *(b)* Wellingborough, *(c)* Corby, *(d)* Northampton South, *(e)* Northampton North and *(f)* Daventry constituency were registered with an NHS dentist (i) in each year since 1997 and (ii) in the latest month in the most recent year for which figures are available. [131575]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: Constituency level registration data from 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2006 are contained in annex C of "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006" which is available in the Library and also at www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity.

Registration data no longer form part of the data available under the new national health service dental contract; the new measure is patients seen within the last 24 months and is available at primary care trust level. This latest data available are as at 31 December 2006. This information is contained in annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England Quarter 3: 31 December 2006" report, which is available in the Library and also at www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental06q3.

Constituency level data are no longer available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Dental Services: Reform

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish the report of the Implementation Review Group on the first 12 months of the NHS dental reforms. [131331]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The Department plans to publish a report on the first 12 months of the reforms once we have full year data. The first year data are likely to be available in June. The report will take into account the main issues discussed by the Implementation Review Group so far.

Departments: Publications

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was of publishing the Partnership Agreement - An agreement between Department of Health, NHS Employers and NHS Trade Unions published on 28 February. [127836]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total cost of publishing the "Partnership Agreement - An agreement between Department of Health, NHS Employers and NHS Trade Unions", published on 28 February, was £1,464.00 plus VAT.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in her Department who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if she will make a statement. [131554]

Ms Rosie Winterton: For the period prior to the financial year 2005-06, data could be established only at disproportionate cost. A breakdown of sums paid in financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07, specific to the Department, is given in the following tables.

Number of 2006-07 leavers

	Compulsory	Voluntary
£0-£25,000	1	16
£25,001-£50,000	1	2
£50,001-£75,000	1	2
£75,001-£100,000	0	2
£100,001 and over	5	9
Total number	8	31

Number of 2005-06 leavers

	Compulsory	Voluntary
£0-£25,000	0	2
£25,001-£50,000	1	2
£50,001-£75,000	1	4
£75,001-£100,000	0	2
£100,001 and over	6	15
Total number	8	25

Doctors: Conditions of Employment

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date she expects the new contract for staff and associate specialist doctors to be implemented. [133048]

Andy Burnham: NHS Employers and the British Medical Association have submitted proposals to the Government on a new contract for staff grade and associate specialist doctors. In line with the arrangements for all public sector pay proposals, those proposals are currently under consideration by the Public Sector Pay Committee of the Cabinet Office.

Drugs: Prison

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her predecessor's statement of 28 September 2004 on the integrated drug treatment scheme for prisons, what funding has been spent in each year since the annual £40 million budget was announced; how many and what percentage of prisoners have received drug treatment via the programme; and whether the March 2008 target for allocating effective treatment services will be met. [127241]

Caroline Flint *[pursuant to the reply, 22 March 2007, Official Report, c. 1131W]*: Implementation of the integrated drug treatment system (IDTS) commenced in 2006.

The current year's investment in IDTS totals £17 million. This comprises £12 million from the Department and £5 million from the Home Office. This will fund IDTS implementation in 45 prisons, allowing some 24,000 prisoners to receive treatment via the programme by March 2008.

Health Professions: Training

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medical staff in the English NHS received all or part of their medical training in Scotland. [128340]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Health Services: Cornwall

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust on future provision of health services for families with under fives previously provided through Surestart funding. [133049]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust (PCT) which has been working productively over the past year with the Cornwall county council's children's services to ensure that there has been no reduction in service delivery and that there is now a focus on the modernisation of service delivery.

NHS South West confirms that Sure Start funding has enhanced the partnership working at the frontline of service delivery in Cornwall, providing a joint agency contribution to delivering the five "Every Child Matters" outcomes. The PCT continues to work in partnership with the county council to address the multi-disciplinary needs of children who have used these services in the past and aims to deliver equitable and sustainable services across the whole of the county.

I understand that a review of children's health services will be announced at the primary care trust board meeting on 30 April 2007 and the hon. Member may wish to engage with the PCT for further information on this matter.

Health Services: Public Appointments

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many directors of public health were medically qualified in each year since 1997. [131327]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Hospital Wards: Closures

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many isolation units were closed in each of the last three years; in which hospitals; what the extent was of the consultation procedure prior to closure in each case; and if she will make a statement. [131102]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number and use of isolation units is not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 438-40W, on hospitals: waiting lists, what percentage of those waiting for *(a)* out-patient appointments waited longer than 11 weeks, *(b)* diagnostic tests waited longer than 13 weeks and *(c)* in-patient appointments waited longer than 20 weeks in the most recent period for which figures are available; and when her Department expects to receive data relating to March 2007. [131884]

Andy Burnham: At the end of February 2007, 1.8 per cent. of patients waiting for a first out-patient appointment had been waiting longer than 11 weeks; 5.5 per cent. of patients waiting for an in-patient admission had been waiting longer than 20 weeks; and 19.3 per cent. of patients waiting for one of the 15 key diagnostic tests on which monthly data are collected had been waiting more than 13 weeks.

Of the over-13-week diagnostic waits, 62 per cent. were for audiology assessments. Plans to address this were published on 6 March in "Improving Access to Audiology Services in England".

March 2007 in-patient and out-patient data will be published on 4 May 2007. March diagnostic data for the 15 key tests will be published on 16 May 2007. The March census of diagnostic waits, which covers other long wait tests, will be published in July.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were waiting for inpatient treatment as given by the commissioner-based waiting list in each year since March 1994 until the most recent period for which figures are available; and how many patients were waiting *(a)* over three months, *(b)* over six months, *(c)* over nine months and *(d)* over 12 months in each period. [131928]

Andy Burnham: The figures are shown in the table.

Commissioner based in-patient waiting time information, March 1994 to February 2007

Month end March:	*Total number waiting*	*Number waiting over 13 weeks (3 months)*	*Number waiting over 26 weeks (6 months)*	*Number waiting over 9 months*	*Number waiting over 12 months*
1994	837,907	439,537	244,479	124,133	52,520
1995	762,180	366,430	182,595	79,022	25,571
1996	1,017,304	458,760	203,235	68,263	3,602
1997	1,131,201	570,237	283,866	118,915	30,245
1998	1,276,965	682,512	377,164	185,102	67,177
1999	1,060,356	524,312	276,752	131,242	46,752
2000	1,024,654	507,104	264,370	126,388	48,145
2001	995,123	480,347	242,953	113,143	41,461
2002	1,021,604	497,015	238,091	96,628	21,869
2003	975,338	443,000	189,054	53,183	103
2004	890,205	323,510	80,125	223	67
2005	808,810	259,250	40,843	78	29

Commissioner based in-patient waiting time information, March 1994 to February 2007

Month end March	Total number waiting	Number waiting over 13 weeks (3 months)	Number waiting over 26 weeks (6 months)	Number waiting over 9 months	Number waiting over 12 months
2006	771,123	190,956	222	35	15
February 2007	725,928	166,581	378	n/a	n/a

Notes:
Data from April 2006 collected in weekly timebands with 13 weeks corresponding to 3 months and 26 weeks corresponding to 6 months. Data no longer collected on the numbers waiting over 9 or 12 months.
Source:
Department of Health QF01 and Monthly Monitoring

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients on inpatient waiting lists were seen within six months in each year since 1990, as given by *(a)* the Hospital Episodes Statistics database and *(b)* Korner data. [131944]

Andy Burnham: The figures are shown in the table.

It should be noted that Korner data measures the numbers still waiting at the end of a period, while Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) measures the time waited for patients admitted during a year. HES figures do not take into account periods of suspension for medical and social reasons.

The table shows that 90 per cent. of patients admitted during the financial year 2005-06 had waited under six months. The six-month standard was in place from the end of December 2005, and therefore the HES figures for 2005-06 only reflect only one quarter where the standard was in place.

Percentage of waits under 6 months, 1990 to 2007—Official waiting times data (Korner)—Hospital Episode Statistics

Month end	Percentage on list who were waiting under 6 months	Financial year	Percentage of patients treated in under 6 months
1990[1]	58	1989-90	n/a
1991[1]	61	1990-91	86
1992[1]	70	1991-92	84
1993[1]	72	1992-93	85
1994	71	1993-94	85
1995	76	1994-95	84
1996	80	1995-96	85
1997	75	1996-97	86
1998	70	1997-98	85
1999	74	1998-99	82
2000	74	1999-2000	85
2001	76	2000-01	84
2002	77	2001-02	83
2003	81	2002-03	82
2004	91	2003-04	82
2005	95	2004-05	87
2006	100	2005-06	90
February 2007[2]	100	2006-07	n/a

[1] All Korner figures from 1994 onwards are commissioner based. All HES figures are provider based.
[2] From April 2006, data collected in weeks, and therefore figures for February 2007 reflect waits under 26 weeks.
Source:
Department of Health, QF01, KH07 returns Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Influenza

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 244-5W, on avian influenza, what information her Department holds on *(a)* the fatality rates for the pandemic influenza outbreaks of (i) 1918-19 (H1N1), (ii) 1957 (N2N2) and (iii) 1968 (H3N2) and *(b)* the equivalent fatality rates amongst humans catching animal variations of each virus. [131162]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* Contemporary Ministry of Health estimates of deaths in England and Wales were 200,000 for 1918-19 and 30,000 for 1957. Contemporary estimates for the 1969-70 pandemic are around 80,000. The fatality rates for humans catching the animal variations of each virus is not known.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what exercises were conducted to test the UK's preparedness for an outbreak of pandemic flu; when each was conducted; and if she will place in the Library the evaluations of these exercises. [129906]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department funds the Health Protection Agency (HPA) to undertake regional and national exercises to prepare the health community in England to respond to an influenza pandemic.

Local and regional exercises

1. 23 June 2005—Exercise Arctic Sea
2. 21 September 2005—Exercise Aurora
3. 28 October 2005—Exercise New Day
4. 8 January 2007—Exercise Athena

National exercises

5. 14 and 15 June 2006—Exercise Shared Goal
6. 1-2 to 30 January and 19 and 20 February 2007—Exercise Winter Willow

European Union exercise

1. 23-24 November 2005—Exercise Common Ground

The reports for Exercise New Day, Exercise Aurora and Exercise Arctic Sea have been placed in the Library and are also available on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/hpa/erd/erd_exercises.htm

The report on Exercise Athena will be published later in the year, and copies will be placed in the Library when available.

Exercise Common Ground, a European Commission (EC) commissioned and HPA-run influenza pandemic exercise, was undertaken with participants that included the EC and European Union member states. The final report is on DG-SANCO of the European Commission website at:

ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/com/common.pdf

Evaluation reports for national exercises, such as Exercise Shared Goal and Exercise Winter Willow, are not formally published. However, the lessons identified through national exercises are taken forward and inform national policy where appropriate through TIDO (Prepare), the official committee on resilience.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's central planning assumption is for the *(a)* clinical attack rate and *(b)* case mortality rate in an outbreak of pandemic influenza. [131952]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government's current planning assumptions are based on a range of possible clinical attack rates of between 25-50 per cent. and overall case fatality rates of 0.4-2.5 per cent.

Junior Doctors: Recruitment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what checks are performed on qualifications claimed by applicants under the new procedures for junior doctor hospital appointments. [127201]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Applicants are expected to bring with them to interview and assessments for specialty registrar programmes, evidence of the qualifications required, as outlined in the relevant person specification. The evidence required and the application process has been designed in accordance with the requirements of the post-graduate medical education training board.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what system of accountability is in place for the Modernising Medical Careers programme for junior doctors. [127208]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The four United Kingdom Health Departments are responsible for the overall implementation of Modernising Medical Careers. The Health Departments co-ordinate action through a United Kingdom Modernising Medical Careers Strategy Group which includes members from the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the General Medical Council, the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB) and national health service employers. Each country also has a dedicated implementation team.

The Royal Colleges are directly responsible for developing the new competency-based curricula which are approved by PMETB. The Royal Colleges also work closely with postgraduate deans over the development of person specifications for the recruitment process and the postgraduate deans themselves oversee selection into posts.

The number of training opportunities available in 2007 was based on local discussions between local NHS employers, strategic health authorities and postgraduate deans.

Kidney Patients: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex were on the waiting list for treatment for dialysis services in each year since 1997. [130967]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally. There is no specific waiting list for dialysis. Dialysis is often an emergency treatment and patients with no kidney function will die in a matter of weeks if they do not receive dialysis. For patients whose disease has been identified well in advance of end-stage renal failure, dialysis begins at a time when the individual and his or her consultant feel it is appropriate. Part one of the national service framework for renal services recommends starting to prepare people for dialysis about a year before it will be needed, as such preparation leads to better outcomes for the patient.

Maternal Mortality

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will conduct an inquiry into maternal deaths as a contemporary successor to Why Mothers Die 1997-1999: The Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths in the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [133012]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department continues to fund and recognise the work of the confidential enquiries into maternal deaths and the next "Why Mothers Die" report, covering the three-year period from 2003-05, is due out in December this year.

Maternity Services: Expenditure

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total expenditure by her Department on neonatal care services including staff costs but excluding National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group-funded services was in each of the last five years. [132256]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not available in the format requested.

Estimates of total expenditure on neonatal care services for the last three financial years are available from the programme budgeting returns and are as shown.

These data cover all primary, secondary and community expenditure. It is not possible to split the expenditure to exclude information on a National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group.

	Gross expenditure (£000)
2003-04	655,015
2004-05	811,215
2005-06	786,390

Source:
PFR4 DH Annual Accounting Forms

Medicine: Students

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the Medical Training Application Service. [131759]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The cost for the Medical Training Application Service in 2006-07 is £1.75 million, funded proportionately by all four United Kingdom Health Departments.

Mental Health Services: Buckinghamshire

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people treated by a mental health trust responsible for Buckinghamshire were *(a)* moved from an enhanced care plan approach to a standard care plan approach and *(b)* discharged from either an enhanced care plan approach or a standard care plan approach in each year since 2001. [132982]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally. The Department is currently undertaking a review of the care programme approach to provide patients with greater control and care tailored to their individual needs. A public consultation was held from 14 November 2006 to 19 February 2007 and further guidance will be issued in due course.

Mentally Ill: Cannabis

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were treated for cannabis-induced psychosis in each of the last five years; and how many were under 18 years old; [131203]

(2) what treatments are available for people suffering from cannabis-induced psychosis. [131204]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information about the number of finished consultant episodes in patients with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorder due to the use of cannabinoids and which has resulted in a psychotic disorder, or a resident or late-onset psychotic disorder is shown in the table. The data do not include those patients seen in primary care.

Data are collected by gender and in the age ranges 0 to 14 years, 15 to 59 years, 60 to 74 years and 75 years and over, but are not available prior to 2002-03. Separate data relating to people under 18-years-old and who were treated for cannabis-induced psychosis are not available.

Number of finished consultant episodes in patients with a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorder following cannabinoid use, resulting in psychotic disorder and resident and late-onset disorder, in the national health service in England, 2002-03 to 2005-06

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Age	*Psychotic disorder*	*Resident and late-onset psychotic disorder*	*Psychotic disorder*	*Resident and late-onset psychotic disorder*	*Psychotic disorder*	*Resident and late-onset psychotic disorder*	*Psychotic disorder*	*Resident and late-onset psychotic disorder*
Male								
0-14	1	0	2	0	3	0	1	0
15-59	304	3	336	3	331	2	393	3
60-74	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
75+	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Male total for year	305	3	339	3	337	2	395	3
Female								
0-14	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
15-59	64	0	87	0	68	1	92	1
60-74	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Female total for year	67	0	87	0	68	1	94	2
Male and female total for year	372	3	426	3	405	3	489	5

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics

Since a large number of drug users may be using more than one drug, treatments are generally user-specific rather than drug-specific. Treatments provided for cannabis-induced psychosis can include help with stopping or reducing cannabis use, including specialist services where cannabis addiction may be present, anti-psychotic treatment as appropriate and support in understanding the harmful effects of cannabis.

The Department has also distributed a cannabis toolkit for service users and healthcare professionals, to help to reduce and stop the use of cannabis. However, decisions about the development of drug treatment services are the responsibility of local commissioners who are best placed to assess the needs of their local population.

Midwives: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed in hospitals in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [126221]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified midwifery staff in each specified organisation as at 30 September

						Headcount
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	RVY	127	113	116	116	129
Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust[1]	RTX	159	159	149	356	177
Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Health Care[2]	RMB	167	168	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blackpool Victoria[2]	RMR	176	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust[2]	RXL	n/a	150	131	126	125
Burnley Healthcare NHS Trust[3]	REU	106	109	n/a	n/a	n/a
Chorley and South Ribble NHS Trust[4]	RJU	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust[3]	RXR	n/a	n/a	283	303	316
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust[4]	RXN	n/a	194	149	177	186
Preston Acute Hospitals NHS Trust[4]	RMF	165	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not applicable

[1] In 2004 Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS submitted an incorrect bank nursing return. The Trust alerted us to this several months after the publication of the Census, by which time it was too late to amend the results. Nursing figures from this Trust for 2004 are inaccurate.

[2] Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust was formed in April 2002 from a merger of Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Community Health Services NHS Trust and Blackpool Victoria Hospital NHS Trust.

[3] East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust was formed in April 2003 from a merger of Burnley Health Care NHS Trust and Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Health Care NHS Trust.

[4] Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust was formed in August 2002 from a merger of Chorley and South Ribble NHS Trust and Preston Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

NHS: Crime of Violence

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many physical attacks there were on NHS staff in each year between 1997 and 2006 in each strategic health authority. [130814]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested has not been collated centrally for the period 1997-2004.

A table outlining the estimated number of reported violent and abusive incidents collected by the Department for 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 for each strategic health authority (SHA) in England is available in the Library.

In April 2003 the NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for the issue of tackling violence against NHS staff. The NHS SMS has collected data on the actual number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in England 2004-05 and 2005-06.

A breakdown of the figures for each SHA, for the 2004-2006 reporting periods, is provided in the table shown.

	Physical assaults	
SHA name	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	2,342	2,508
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	1,206	2,104
Essex	1,286	1,142
North West London	1,321	1,293
North Central London	1,249	1,017
North East London	1,162	883
South East London	1,459	1,673
South West London	819	841
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	4,043	3,551
County Durham and Tees Valley	3,333	1,787
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	1,345	1,347
West Yorkshire	4,796	3,683
Cumbria and Lancashire	2,989	2,534
Greater Manchester	2,481	2,119
Cheshire and Merseyside	2,389	2,567
Thames Valley	1,639	1,690
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1,724	1,882
Kent and Medway	2,407	2,120
Surrey and Sussex	1,821	1,507
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	2,900	2,863
South West Peninsula	895	1,418
Dorset and Somerset	1,504	1,800
South Yorkshire	2,272	2,310
Trent	3,664	3,612
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	1,665	2,247
Shropshire and Staffordshire	2,440	2,669
Birmingham and The Black Country	2,952	2,761
West Midlands South	2,277	2,857
Total	60,380	58,695

NHS: Equal Pay

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate of cost over and above current provision she has made of the impact of the Equal Pay Act 1970 on individual *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* NHS trusts in the Eastern Region; and if she will make a statement. [127636]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are around 120 equal pay claims outstanding against national health service organisations in the East of England strategic health authority area. It is not possible to estimate what, if any, additional cost will arise from these claims as there are a number of significant legal issues which need to be resolved before liability can be assessed.

Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking *(a)* to safeguard the future of Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust at Headington, Oxford and *(b)* to ensure that provisions for local services and specialist work can be maintained in the area. [131390]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities (SHAs) to analyse their local situation and develop plans, in liaison with their local national health service trusts and primary care providers, to deliver high quality NHS services including orthopaedic services while maintaining financial balance. The Department is working with the Specialist Orthopaedic Alliance, specialist orthopaedic hospitals and their host SHA to reach a long-term sustainable solution to rewarding the work of specialist orthopaedic hospitals through payment by results.

Nurses: Schools

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many school nurses there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region of England in each of the last 10 years. [131674]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of school nurses employed in each health region is shown in the table. School nurses have only been separately identified in the national health service workforce census since 2004.

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified nurses in the school nursing area of work in England by strategic health authority area as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2004		2005	
	Total qualified nurses in the school nursing area of work	*Of which: qualified school nurses[1]*	*Total qualified nurses in the school nursing area of work*	*Of which: qualified school nurses[1]*
England	2,409	856	2,887	943
North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA) area	145	64	164	61
North West SHA area	468	157	471	192
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA area	303	115	402	132
East Midlands SHA area	230	38	255	34
West Midlands SHA area	185	110	264	110
East of England SHA area	186	71	287	50
London SHA area	363	131	471	168
South East Coast SHA area	180	82	203	97
South Central SHA area	111	45	117	33
South West SHA area	238	43	253	66

[1] Qualified school nurses hold the National Midwifery Council (NMC) Specialist Practice Qualification with an outcome in school nursing, which is a recordable qualification on the NMC register. School nurses have only been collected from 2004 as a separate category.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Nurses: Training

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many students qualified to become nurses in each of the last five years; and how many vacancies for nurses there were during that period. [128335]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not collected information centrally on the number of students who qualified to become nurses over the last five years.

The following table shows the number of vacancies for nurses which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more (full time equivalents) at 31 March of each year for the last five years.

Total qualified nursing three month vacancies

	Number
2002	8,390
2003	7,967
2004	7,508
2005	5,801
2006	2,884

Source: National Health Service vacancy survey as at 31 March each year

Occupational Health: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* occupational physicians and *(b)* occupational health nurses were employed in the NHS in each year since 1997. [131328]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest available data on the number of doctors in occupational medicine in each year since 1997 are shown in the table.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): medical and dental staff working in occupational health by grade and year—England as at 30 September each year

Number (headcount)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
England	178	191	185	192	221	218	231	212	209
Consultant	63	65	65	70	80	76	85	87	96
Associate Specialist	2	6	4	4	4	8	6	6	9
Staff Grade	2	1	1	7	5	2	3	6	2
Registrar Group	20	24	33	30	43	46	46	45	47
Senior House Officer	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0
House Officer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hospital Practitioner/Clinical Assistant	89	94	80	81	76	67	69	49	40
Other	2	1	1	0	13	19	20	17	14

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census

The annual national health service workforce census does not separately identify occupational health nurses from the rest of the nursing workforce.

Occupational Therapy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of how NHS-employed occupational therapists engage with home improvement agencies. [128056]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No assessment has been carried out centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to assess the needs of their local communities and to commission services accordingly.

Osteosarcoma

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence was of osteosarcoma for each of the age groups *(a)* 0 to nine years, *(b)* 10 to 19 years and *(c)* 20 to 49 years in areas of the United Kingdom supplied with (i) fluoridated and (ii) non-fluoridated drinking water. [129701]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Osteosarcoma[1] in England: Number of new cases, 1995-2004, persons by selected age groups and Government office region

	Age group			Percentage of fluoridated water
	0-9	10-19	20-49	
England	86	462	330	—
Government office regions				
North East	4	30	23	34.8
North West	10	75	45	3.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	8	45	33	2.6
East Midlands	12	41	29	13.8
West Midlands	10	49	39	70.2
East of England	7	49	26	—
London	15	69	60	—
South East	14	64	43	—
South West	6	40	32	—

[1]International Classification of Diseases, histology codes 9180, 9181, 9182, 9183, 9184, 9185, 9190. Behaviour code 3.

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Procurement Projects

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the 20 largest procurement projects initiated by her Department since May 1997 have been; what the *(a)* original budget, *(b)* cost to date and *(c)* consultancy fees have been; and what the final cost was of each project which has been completed. [106599]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected in the form requested. However, the Department does have details of the 20 largest private finance initiative and information technology (IT) procurement projects since 1997. For the national programme for IT the lifetime contract value is £6,202.5 million and the expenditure up to 31 December 2006 was £1,001.5 million.

The following table provides details of the 19 largest private finance initiative (PFI) projects.

Commissioning body	Operational status[1]	Total capital value (£ million)	Estimated total unitary payments to end of contract (£000)	Consultancy fees (£000)	Hard facilities management (FM) only[2]
Barts and the London NHS Trust	Under construction	1,000	5,071.9	—	—
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Trust	Under construction	627	2,549.4	—	Y
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	Open	422	2,014.2	—	—
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	Under construction	420	3,224.5	16,196	—
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	Open	379	3,090.0	4,775	—
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	In procurement	343	—	—	—
St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	Under construction	338	1,747.6	—	—
Derby Hospitals NHS Trust	Under construction	312	2,172.4	6,712	—
Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust	Under construction	299	1,132.8	5,962	Y
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust	Under construction	296	1,746.7	—	—
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Trust	In procurement	282	—	—	—
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	In procurement	272	—	—	—
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	Under construction	265	891.4	5,138	Y
Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust	Open	238	1,675.6	7,610	—
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	In procurement	225	—	—	—
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	Under construction	193	1,654.9	—	—
Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	In procurement	190	—	—	—
Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust	Open	158	1,726.2	3,497	—

[1] Unitary payments only start once the facility is operational.
[2] Most schemes involve the private sector contractor providing both soft (cleaning, catering etc) and hard (building maintenance) FM services over the lifetime of the contract. Those marked as hard FM only in this column subsequently have lower unitary payments.

Notes:
1. The figures for the unitary payments in column 4 are expressed in nominal terms—i.e. the Department has applied a deflator (RPI—the one normally used in contracts) to the baseline figure submitted to it by the Trust or PCT concerned. Figures will therefore vary as a result of changes to RPI.
2. Unitary payments may fluctuate both up and down as a result of adjustments made relating to the performance of the contractor, additional services requested by the trust and the effect of refinancing.
3. For all schemes the contract length is assumed to be 30 years, the standard length introduced under the Standard Form Contract in 1999.
4. Consultancy Fees: Information on consultancy fees incurred in reaching financial close (i.e. construction in the table) was centrally collected for monitoring purposes for the majority of PFI schemes up to 2005. To collect information on the remaining schemes would incur disproportionate costs.
5. The Department submits details on original budgets and cost increases for PFI schemes each year for the Health Select Committee. This information can be found on their website at:
www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/health_committee/health_committee_reports_and_publications.cfm

Prostate Cancer

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken by her Department to raise awareness of prostate cancer. [132069]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1203W.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in making National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence-approved treatments for prostate cancer available on the NHS. [132070]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Tyne Bridge (Mr. Clelland) on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1796W.

Prosthetics

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many amputees have used NHS prosthetic limbs in each of the last 10 years; [132163]

(2) what estimate she has made of waiting times for NHS prosthetic limbs in each of the last 10 years; [132164]

(3) what provision the NHS makes for therapy and gait training for amputees using prosthetic limbs. [132165]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information about the number of amputees using national health service prosthetic limbs is not collected centrally. There has been no estimate of waiting times for NHS prosthetic limbs made centrally.

It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to commission services in order to meet local needs. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of, and access to, prosthetic services.

A multidisciplinary team, which may be headed by a rehabilitation consultant and usually including a prosthetist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, nurse, and in some cases a counsellor, will consider the needs and expectations of the patient and will provide the most appropriate prosthetic limb and suitable training where required.

Ritalin

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people being prescribed methylphenidate drugs have been prescribed those drugs for longer than *(a)* two, *(b)* five and *(c)* 10 years. [132893]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Speech Therapy

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* post graduates and *(b)* first degree graduates with recognised qualifications in speech and language therapy there were in 2006, broken down by higher education institution; and what proportion in each case are known to have (i) gained and (ii) retained employment in the NHS in speech therapy after graduating. [127666]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate her Department has made of the number of language and speech therapists required in England; [131604]

(2) what her estimate is of the number of speech and language therapists expected to retire in the next 10 years. [131606]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not collected centrally on the number of speech and language therapists who are expected to retire in the next 10 years.

No assessment has been made of the number of speech and language therapists required in England. It is the responsibility of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities with support from the national workforce review team to analyse their local situation, develop plans and take action to recruit the appropriate staff required to deliver high quality speech and language services.

The workforce review team, an arm's length body hosted by NHS South Central, produces supply estimates (including assumptions about retirement) for professional groups. Its estimates for speech and language therapists is available at:

www.healthcareworkforce.nhs.uk/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=295

Surgical Dressings

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training has been provided for medical and health care practitioners in the NHS on maggot debridement therapy; and if she will make a statement. [127743]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service. Because services are delivered at a local level, funding for continuing professional development, including training in new therapies, is included as part of the baseline allocation to strategic health authorities (SHAs). How it is allocated is for individual SHAs to determine locally against their work force planning strategies.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what monitoring has been put in place since 2004 for failed Iraqi asylum applicants under the UK enforced returns programme upon their return to Iraq. [131593]

Mr. Byrne: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 593W.

Biometrics

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 969W, on biometrics, whether technology is *(a)* currently available and *(b)* in development to conduct such checks; and if he will make a statement. [130332]

John Reid: Technology is available that could attempt to match a facial image against a still image obtained from CCTV footage. However, the results are likely to be variable and would depend on the features of the technology used, the quality of the available images and the number of facial images that a single CCTV image was checked against.

Chlorine: Security

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the implications for public security of arrangements for the use of chlorine; and if he will make a statement. [132237]

Mr. McNulty: We regularly review the implications for public security of arrangements for the use of a variety of substances.

Criminal Justice Act 2003

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what he intends the surcharge provided for in sections 161A and 161B of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to be used for. [132133]

John Reid: In a full year it is expected that the surcharge on fines will raise £16 million.

Money from the surcharge will be spent on a range of services for victims of crime and witnesses. These include £3 million for witness care units, £3 million for independent domestic violence advisers, and £1.25 million for services to victims of sexual violence through the Victims' Fund. Details of how the rest of the money will be used in support of victims and witnesses will be announced in due course.

Internet: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were prosecuted for internet piracy in each of the last five years. [130832]

John Reid: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts for certain offences under Common Law, Criminal Justice Act 1987, Theft Act 1968 added by Theft (Amendment) Act 1996, Computer Misuse Act 1990, Trade Marks Act 1994, Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988, Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as added by Copyright and Related Rights Regulations Reg. and Trade Marks Act 1994, in England and Wales, 2001 to 2005 can be viewed in the attached table.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts for certain offences under Common Law, Criminal Justice Act 1987, Theft Act 1968 added by Theft (Amendment) Act 1996, Computer Misuse Act 1990, Trade Marks Act 1994, Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988, Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 as added by Copyright and Related Rights Regulations Reg. and Trade Marks Act 1994, in England and Wales, 2001 to 2005[1,2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Common Law. Criminal Justice Act 1987 Sec 12	Conspiracy to defraud	1,215	986	1,018	967	955
Theft Act 1968 Sec 15A as added by Theft (Amendment) Act 1996 S.1	Obtaining a money transfer by deception.	434	410	457	442	465
Theft Act 1968 S.24A as added by Theft (Amendment)Act 1996 S.2	Dishonestly retaining a wrongful credit	90	97	109	138	81
Computer Misuse Act 1990 Sec 2	Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences.	4	6	9	6	11
Computer Misuse Act 1990 Sec 3	Unauthorised modificatoin of computer material.	12	8	3	10	8
Trade Marks Act. 1994 Sec 92 and 94	Unauthorised use of Trade Mark etc in relations to goods. Falsification of Register etc	410	407	486	598	928
Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, Sec. 198 1a, b, d iii and Sec. 107 1a,b, d iv and E.	Makes, imports or distributes illicit recordings. Makes for sale or hire, imports possesses or distributes articles which infringes copyright.	57	37	46	65	107
Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 S.107 2A and 4A as added by Copyright and Related Rights Regulations Reg 26 (1)	Person infringes copyright in a work by communicating the work to the public	nil	nil	nil	6	16
Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 S.198 2A and 5A as added by Copyright and Related Rights Regulations Reg 26 (3)	Person who infringes a performer's making available right in the course of business/otherwise	nil	nil	nil	3	2
Computer Misuse Act 1990 Sec 1	Unauthorised access to computer material.	9	4	7	5	5
Trade Marks Act. 1994, Sees 84, 85, 95.	Contravention of the Rules prescribing the conditions for person entitled to be registered Trade Mark Agents. Falsely representing trade mark as registered	4	4	2	2	5
Total		2,235	1,999	2,137	2,242	2,583

These data are on the principal offence basis.
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. *Source:* RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Life Imprisonment: Prisoner Releases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders convicted of life sentences since *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 2002 have been released from prison. [129658]

John Reid: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 488W. Answering the earlier question of 12 June 2006 referred to involved significant manual checking of records and was integral to informing the need for a data quality review in the Department. Since then the data quality review has begun and as part of that review we are developing a new database that will enable us to collect the data requested centrally. But, at this time to answer the question would involve a disproportionate cost.

Naturalisation Test

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the key aspects of Britishness are which the Life in the UK naturalisation test is testing; and how they were decided upon. [130018]

John Reid: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 April, *Official Report*, column 470W. These aspects were selected in accordance with the advice of the Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what percentage of people convicted under section 1 of the Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 received a *(a)* fine and *(b)* custodial sentence in each of the last five years, broken down by age group; [131180]

(2) how many and what percentage of people convicted of having an article with a blade or point under section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 received *(a)* a fine and *(b)* a custodial sentence of (i) less than six months, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to 18 months, (iv) 18 to 24 months, (v) two to three years and (vi) four years in each year since the Act was introduced; [131181]

(3) how many and what percentage of people convicted of carrying an offensive weapon under section 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 received *(a)* a fine and *(b)* a custodial sentence of (i) less than six months, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to 18 months, (iv) 18 to 24 months, (v) two to three years and (vi) four years in each year since the Act was introduced; [131184]

(4) how many and what percentage of people convicted of encouraging violent behaviour involving the use of a knife under the Knives Act 1997 received *(a)* a fine and *(b)* a custodial sentence of (i) less than six months, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to 18 months and (iv) 18 to 24 months in each year since the Act was introduced; [131220]

(5) how many people and what percentage of people convicted of carrying an offensive weapon under section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 received *(a)* a fine and *(b)* a custodial sentence of (i) less than six months, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to 18 months, (iv) 18 to 24 months, (v) two to three years and (vi) four years in each of the last 30 years. [131241]

John Reid: The information requested is contained in the tables.

Table 1 shows persons sentenced (all persons sentenced have previously been convicted) under the Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 by outcome and age group for the years 2001 to 2005.

Table 2 shows persons sentenced for the requested offences relating to knives and offensive weapons by outcome and custodial sentence length since the Offensive Weapons Act 1996 amended or added to section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988. No persons convicted or sentenced have been notified to the Home Office court proceedings database under section 2(1)(b) of the Knives Act 1997.

Information is available only from 1986 to this level of detail for offences under the Prevention of Crime Act 1953.

Court proceedings statistics for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Table 1: Persons[1] sentenced for offences under the Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act, by age group and outcome, England and Wales

Persons

				Fine		*Immediate custody*		*Otherwise dealt with*[2]	
Offence	*Statute*	*Year and age group*	*Total persons sentenced*	*No.*	*% of persons sentenced*	*No.*	*% of persons sentenced*	*No.*	*% of persons sentenced*
Making, selling, hiring etc 'flick knife' or 'gravity knife' etc	Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act 1959 sec 1 and Criminal Justice Act1988 sec 141	2001							
		Aged 10-17	1	—	—	—	—	1	100.0

Table 1: Persons[1] sentenced for offences under the Restriction of Offensive Weapons Act, by age group and outcome, England and Wales

Persons

Offence	Statute	Year and age group	Total persons sentenced	Fine		Immediate custody		Otherwise dealt with[2]	
				No.	% of persons sentenced	No.	% of persons sentenced	No.	% of persons sentenced
		Aged 18-20	1	—	—	—	—	1	100.0
		Aged 21 and over	3	—	—	1	33.3	2	66.7
		All ages	5	—	—	1	20.0	4	80.0
		2002							
		Aged 10-17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Aged 18-20	2	—	—	1	50.0	1	50.0
		Aged 21 and over	2	—	—	—	—	2	100.0
		All ages	4	—	—	1	25.0	3	75.0
		2003							
		Aged 10-17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Aged 18-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Aged 21 and over	4	1	25.0	1	25.0	2	50.0
		All ages	4	1	25.0	1	25.0	2	50.0
		2004							
		Aged 10-17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Aged 18-20	1	—	—	—	—	1	100.0
		Aged 21 and over	9	7	77.8	—	—	2	22.2
		All ages	10	7	70.0	—	—	3	30.0
		2005							
		Aged 10-17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Aged 18-20	1	—	—	—	—	1	100.0
		Aged 21 and over	7	3	42.9	—	—	4	57.1
		All ages	8	3	37.5	—	—	5	62.5

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Absolute and conditional discharges, community sentences and other miscellaneous disposals.

Table 2: Persons' sentenced for various offences connected with knives and offensive weapons, by outcome, including immediate custodial sentence length, England and Wales

Persons

				Fine		Immediate Custody Total				
Offence	*Statute*	*Year*	*Total persons sentenced*	*No.*	*% of persons sentenced*	*No.*	*% of persons sentenced*	*Less than 6 months*	*6 months and less than 12 months*	*12 months and less than 18 months*
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	Criminal Justice Act 1988 sec 1 39 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 3	1996	890	448	50.3	56	6.3	52	3	—
		1997	3,341	1,177	35.2	372	11.1	347	15	7
		1998	3,788	1,184	31.3	550	14.5	493	46	9
		1999	3,548	1,026	29	534	15.1	493	34	4
		2000	3,518	986	28.0	499	14.2	454	38	7
		2001	4,303	1,146	26.6	589	13.7	536	47	3
		2002	5,269	1,347	25.6	766	14.5	676	76	2
		2003	5,311	1,275	24.0	755	14.2	668	69	13
		2004	5,802	1,128	19.4	803	13.8	706	88	6
		2005	5,957	951	16.0	965	16.2	850	89	23
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Criminal Justice Act 1988 sec 139A(1) and (5X1) as added by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 4(1)	1996	12	5	41.7	—	—	—	—	—
		1997	19	4	21.1	3	15.8	3	—	—
		1998	16	3	18.8	—	—	—	—	—
		1999	16	6	37.5	2	12.5	2	—	—
		2000	44	10	22.7	7	15.9	6	—	—
		2001	61	18	29.5	3	4.9	1	2	—
		2002	57	9	15.8	7	12.3	7	—	—
		2003	88	14	15.9	6	6.8	5	1	—
		2004	106	20	18.9	12	11.3	11	1	—
		2005	45	2	4.4	5	11.1	4	—	1
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises	Criminal Justice Act 1988 sec139A(2) and (5Xb) as added by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 4(1)	1996	3	2	66.7	1	33.3	1	—	—
		1997	19	2	10.5	4	21.1	3	—	—
		1998	20	1	5.0	5	25.0	1	4	—
		1999	20	3	15.0	3	15.0	2	—	—

Offence	Statute	Year	Total persons sentenced	Immediate custody: 18 months and less than 2 years	2 years and less than 3 years	3 years and less than 4 years	4 years	More than 4 years	Persons Otherwise dealt with: No.	% of persons sentenced
		2004	105	—	—	—	—	—	74	69.8
		2005	45	—	—	—	—	—	38	84.4
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises	Criminal Justice Act 1988 sec139A(2) and (5Xb) as added by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 4(1)	1996	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		1997	19	—	—	—	1	—	13	68.4
		1998	20	—	—	—	—	—	14	70.0
		1999	20	—	—	—	1	—	14	70.0
		2000	18	1	—	—	—	—	12	66.7
		2001	19	—	—	—	—	—	14	73.7
		2002	21	—	—	—	—	—	16	76.2
		2003	21	—	1	—	—	—	17	81.0
		2004	33	—	—	—	—	—	28	84.8
		2005	30	—	—	—	—	—	25	83.3
Publication of any written, pictorial or other material in connection with the marketing of any knife—the material is otherwise likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour involving use of a knife as a weapon	Knives Act 1997 sec 2(1)(b)	1997	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		1998	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		1999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2001	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2005	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	Prevention of Crime Act 1953 sec 1 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 2(1)	1986	4,961	11	5	—	—	—	1,945	39.2

Offence	Statute	Year	Total persons sentenced	Immediate custody: 18 months and less than 2 years	2 years and less than 3 years	3 years and less than 4 years	4 years	More than 4 years	Persons Otherwise dealt with[2]: No.	% of persons sentenced
		1987	5,916	14	—	—	—	—	2,350	39.7
		1988	5,804	8	2	—	—	—	2,312	39.8
		1989	5,121	6	4	—	—	—	2,026	39.6
		1990	4,288	4	1	—	—	—	1,778	41.5
		1991	3,907	7	2	—	—	—	1,809	46.3
		1992	3,608	4	—	—	—	—	1,720	47.7
		1993	3,129	4	2	—	—	—	1,705	54.5
		1994	3,302	1	3	—	—	—	1,817	55.0
		1995	3,196	7	2	—	—	—	1,745	54.6
		1996	3,545	6	2	—	—	—	2,050	57.8
		1997	4,130	8	6	2	—	—	2,417	58.5
		1998	4,375	7	3	2	—	—	2,567	58.7
		1999	4,135	8	8	2	1	—	2,511	60.7
		2000	4,108	4	4	4	—	—	2,549	62.0
		2001	4,873	11	3	1	—	—	3,093	63.5
		2002	5,441	12	8	3	1	—	3,525	64.8
		2003	5,394	13	11	3	—	—	3,466	64.3
		2004	5,758	9	6	2	—	—	3,904	67.8
		2005	5,689	10	9	1	1	1	4,119	72.4

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Absolute and conditional discharges, community sentences and other miscellaneous disposals.
Source:
RDS-NOMS, Home Office

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of people convicted of encouraging violent behaviour involving the use of a knife under the Knives Act 1997 have been *(a)* female and *(b)* male. [131221]

Mr. McNulty: Data from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform show that there have been no convictions for this offence.

Offensive Weapons: Schools

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests were made and *(b)* convictions were secured under section 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 for the offence of having an article with a blade or point or an offensive weapon on school premises in each of the last five years, broken down by age group. [131219]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: Information on arrests for recorded crime offences under s139 and 139A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (as amended by s4(1) of the Offensive Weapons Act 1996) and s1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 (as amended by s2(1) of the Offensive Weapons Act 1996) are not separately identifiable within the arrests collection held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The collection is based on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by main offence group (i.e. violence against the person, robbery, burglary, criminal damage etc) only.

Information on the number of persons found guilty for the offences requested in England and Wales for the years 2001-05 is provided in the following table, broken down by age group.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for certain offences[1,2,3], England and Wales 2001 to 2005

	Offence description	Statute	Year	Age group: Aged 10 to 11	Aged 12 to 14	Aged 15 to 17	Aged 18 and over	All ages
811	Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	Prevention of Crime Act 1953, Sec 1(1) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996, Sec 2(1)	2001	4	136	976	3,765	4,881
			2002	5	113	953	4,398	5,469
			2003	4	135	832	4,432	5,403

				Immediate custody				Persons Otherwise dealt with	
Offence	Statute	Year	Total persons sentenced	18 months and less than 2 years	2 years and less than 3 years	3 years and less than 4 years	4 years	More than 4 years	No.	% of persons sentenced
		2004	106	—	—	—	—	—	74	69.8
		2005	45	—	—	—	—	—	38	84.4
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority, or reasonable excuse on school premises	Criminal Justice Act 1988 sec 139A(2) and (5Xb) as added by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 4(1)	1996	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		1997	19	—	—	—	1	—	13	68.4
		1998	20	—	—	—	—	—	14	70.0
		1999	20	—	—	—	1	—	14	70.0
		2000	18	1	—	—	—	—	12	66.7
		2001	19	—	—	—	—	—	14	73.7
		2002	21	—	—	—	—	—	16	76.2
		2003	21	—	1	—	—	—	17	81.0
		2004	33	—	—	—	—	—	28	84.8
		2005	30	—	—	—	—	—	25	83.3
Publication of any written, pictorial or other material in connection with the marketing of any knife—the material is otherwise likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour involving use of a knife as a weapon	Knives Act 1997 sec 2(1)(b)	1997	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		1998	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		1999	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2001	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2002	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2003	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2004	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2005	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
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			2003	4	135	832	4,432	5,403

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for certain offences[1,2,3], England and Wales 2001 to 2005

	Offence description	Statute	Year	Age group: Aged 10 to 11	Aged 12 to 14	Aged 15 to 17	Aged 18 and over	All ages
			2004	—	134	1,047	4,576	5,757
			2005	4	124	999	4,601	5,728
826	Having an article with blade or point in public place	Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996, Sec 3	2001	5	128	806	3,350	4,299
			2002	2	134	812	4,333	5,281
			2003	8	147	755	4,398	5,308
			2004	5	170	817	4,792	5,784
			2005	7	186	888	4,880	5,961
827	Having an article with blade or point on school premises	Criminal Justice Act 1988, Sec 139A (1)(5)(a) as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996, Sec 4(1)	2001	—	2	6	15	23
			2002	—	6	10	3	19
			2003	2	6	7	14	29
			2004	—	11	16	10	37
			2005	1	14	17	12	44

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data for "having an article with blade or point on school premises" excludes convictions for West Mercia PFA until clarification of these cases is obtained.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Prisons: Television

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners in *(a)* category C prisons, *(b)* category D prisons and *(c)* youth offender institutions have access to Sky television. [132350]

John Reid: No prisoners in category C or D prisons or young offender institutions now have access to subscription satellite TV channels in their cells. Where digital equipment is being installed, prisoners have access to selected free-to-air channels under the Sky brand name.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Serious Organised Crime Agency officers are designated as having powers of arrest; and how many arrests have been made since 1 April 2006. [124767]

John Reid: On 1 April 2006, 1,821 SOCA officers were designated with the power of arrest. Since then an additional 27 SOCA officers have been designated with the power of arrest. SOCA also has a number of officers seconded from other agencies and of these 168 are designated with the power of arrest.

For the period April to September 2006, 358 people were arrested as a result of UK based enforcement activity on SOCA operations. This figure includes both arrests by SOCA officers and arrests by other agencies on behalf of SOCA.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 402W, on the Serious Organised Crime Agency, with which criminal offences the 316 people were charged. [129046]

John Reid: The information requested is in the following table.

Nature of Offence	Number of individuals charged[1]
Drugs trafficking	240
Illegal immigration	68
Money laundering	24
Fraud	1
Firearms trafficking	3
Counterfeit Currency	1
Identity Cards	3
Total	340[1]

[1] The total is greater than 316 because some individuals were charged with more than one offence.

Terrorism: Money Laundering

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many terrorist investigations have been assisted following the introduction of the money laundering regulations 2003. [132793]

Ed Balls: I have been asked to reply.

Financial investigation is a fundamental part of all counter-terrorist investigations. The Money Laundering Regulations 2003 place a number of requirements on the regulated sector, such as to identify their customers and hold customer records.

and to have in place other procedures which in turn support the reporting of suspicious activity, which have proved valuable in the wider terrorist effort.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Alcoholic Drinks

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what quantity of *(a)* beers and ciders, *(b)* aperitifs, fortified wines and spirits and *(c)* wines were purchased by the Refreshment Department in each of the last three years; what the cost of these purchases was in each year; and what percentage of each of these items was imported. [131065]

Nick Harvey: Accounts have not yet been finalised for the full year ending March 2007, but estimated alcoholic beverage purchases during the 11 months to February 2007 were as follows:

April 2006 to February 2007[1]	*Quantity (litres)*	*Estimated cost of purchases (£)*	*Percentage quantity imported*
(a) beers and ciders	40,000	60,100	17
(b) aperitifs, fortified wines and spirits	5,700	80,400	12
(c) wines	57,300	379,900	98

[1] 11 months

Detailed purchase information is not currently available for the year 2005-06 due to technical issues that are being investigated by the software supplier. The Director of Catering Services will write to the hon. Member with the requested information when it becomes available.

The software used by the Refreshment Department does not retain historical information of purchases on a product-by-product basis for earlier years. However, I would remind the hon. Member that information about beverage purchase quantities and the percentage of imported products for the 11 months from April 2004 until February 2005 has previously been provided to him. I corrected the information originally provided by my predecessor in my letter to the hon. Member on 21 November 2005, but for ease of reference I set out in full the corrected information provided to his previous question tabled in March 2005:

April 2004 to February 2005[1]	*Quantity (litres)*	*Percentage quantity imported*
(d) beers and ciders	38,051	17
(e) aperitifs, fortified wines and spirits	4,579	8
(f) wines	56,987	95

[1] 11 months

Water

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate he has made of *(a)* the carbon footprint associated with the use of bottled water within the House and *(b)* what the footprint would be were only tap water available. [132473]

Nick Harvey: No estimate has yet been made of the carbon footprint associated with the use of bottled water within the House, but one is now being drawn up.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what measures are being *(a)* taken and *(b)* considered to promote efficiency in the use of water on the House of Commons estate. [131067]

Nick Harvey: The measures being taken to promote efficiency in the use of water on the House of Commons estate include: surveys of toilets, shower rooms and washrooms to obtain quotations for the installation of controls for urinal cisterns, conversion of existing turn or cross head taps to non-concussive self closing push taps, installation of pressure compensating aerators to taps to reduce water flow and the replacement of existing showers with aerated showers to reduce water flow. Thames Water staff inspected most of the toilets on the House of Commons estate in early 2006 and fitted a water saving device to approximately 20 WC cisterns. A consultant is currently investigating how to better promote and implement the energy and water saving policy among staff and other users of the estate's facilities.

A proposal to run an environment champions programme in each estate building is also currently being considered, which would promote better energy and water efficiency and waste management.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Overseas Aid: Water

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was allocated to projects involving water and sanitation by his Department in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [132068]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has agreed that half of our direct aid to poor countries should be spent on basic services, including water. We will double our support to water and sanitation in Africa to £95 million a year by 2008-09 and then double it again to £200 million a year by 2001-11.

DFID's total support to the sector, including through the World Bank, the multilateral development banks and the EC, was £242 million in 2005-06. Our bilateral funding was just over half of this at around £130 million in 2005-06.

Our total support to sub-Saharan Africa has increased significantly to £78 million (from £46 million in 2002-03), so we are on track to reach the World Water Day target of £95 million by 2007-08.

Further detail on DFID's expenditure in the sector can be found in our report 'Financial Support to the water sector 2004-2006', which will be placed in the Library of the House. This is our most recent report and was published in March 2007. Details of our 2006-07 expenditure are not yet available.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Aerials: Planning Permission

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many planning applications (*a*) to construct and (*b*) to add to existing telecommunications masts in each council area of Northern Ireland were approved in the last 12 months. [132188]

David Cairns: The Department of the Environment's Planning Service approved 155 planning applications for telecommunications masts between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007 and the following table shows the number approved in each district council area. I regret that the Planning Service's electronic records system does not provide a distinction between an application for the construction of a mast and an addition to an existing mast.

District council area	*Planning approvals in 2006-07*
Antrim	4
Ards	4
Armagh	2
Ballymena	5
Ballymoney	2
Banbridge	2
Belfast	26
Carrickfergus	3
Castlereagh	6
Coleraine	7
Cookstown	1
Craigavon	6
Derry	12
Down	5
Dungannon	7
Fermanagh	3
Larne	1
Limavady	1
Lisburn	12
Magherafelt	3
Moyle	0
Newry and Mourne	8
Newtownabbey	4
North Down	8
Omagh	14
Strabane	9
Total	155

Community Support Officers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what facilities are to be provided for the training of community support officers to be recruited in Northern Ireland; and at what cost. [133043]

Paul Goggins: Training for PCSOs will be based on a six-week programme, comprising both classroom and practical-based learning. It is envisaged that part of this training will take place within the community and the environments in which PCSOs will work. The programme will include role specific training, skills development, and the knowledge necessary for working in the community—including human rights, diversity, ethics and problem solving. As with other members of police staff, PCSOs will have access to ongoing training as needed.

Full costings for training are not yet available.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the recruitment of community support officers (CSOs) in Northern Ireland to begin; and when he expects the first CSOs to be deployed. [133044]

Paul Goggins: The following table sets out the proposed timetable for the first recruitment campaign. This has yet to be finalised and is therefore subject to change.

Date	
4 May 2007	Extensive outreach campaign to inform the public and potential applicants as to the role and functions of a PCSO
Week beginning 21 May 2007	Recruitment advertisements
October 2007	Recruitment process completed
January 2008	First training programme commences
February 2008	First PCSOs on patrol in E District (Armagh, Banbridge, Craigavon and Newry and Mourne)

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the operating costs of Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland was in each of the last six years. [133029]

David Cairns: The operating cost of Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland in each of the last six years was as follows:

	Amount (£000)
2000-01	11,329
2001-02	12,169
2002-03	13,713
2003-04	15,514
2004-05	17,091
2005-06	18,511

Further Education: Student Drop-outs

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what analysis has been carried out to ascertain the main reasons why students in further education in Northern Ireland dropped out of their courses in the last three years. [132185]

Maria Eagle: A range of analysis has been carried out by DEL to ascertain the main reasons why students in further education in Northern Ireland dropped out of their courses in the last three years. This includes analysis of the available data regarding the 'reasons for withdrawal' variable contained within the Further Education Leavers Survey (FELS) returns as well as analysis uncertaken by the Education and Training Inspectorate on retention within a college as part of their inspecton process.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many students in further education in Northern Ireland failed to complete their course in the last 12 months; and how many of them were in the final year of their course. [132187]

Maria Eagle: During the 2005/06 academic year a total of 24,219 enrolments, which equates to some 16 per cent. of total provision, in the Northern Ireland Further Education Sector failed to complete their course. Some 16,157 of this total were final year enrolments.

Notes:

1. The source for this analysis is the Further Education Statistical Record (FESR) and the Further Education Leavers Survey (FELS).

2. The figures quoted include students who dropped out of their original programme of study and subsequently transferred to another course.

3. The data above pertain to "assessed" provision only and are the latest available.

Licensed Premises

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many businesses were licensed to sell alcohol in each district council area in each of the last six years; how many of those businesses breached their licence over the same period; and what penalty was imposed in each case in which all proceedings are complete. [130922]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Court data in respect of licensed premises are recorded by Petty Sessions District. The information requested is tabled as follows.

Table A

Petty Sessions District	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Antrim	73	62	56	66	71	70
Armagh	101	104	103	103	104	106
Ards (includes Castlereagh)	146	128	118	124	129	127
Ballymena	85	82	81	89	83	86
Banbridge	63	53	68	70	66	67
Belfast	523	427	470	489	599	566
Craigavon	82	77	70	86	99	101
Down	147	149	148	150	156	151
East Tyrone	199	161	196	185	193	194
Fermanagh	154	123	152	152	158	170
Larne	42	42	41	42	44	44
Limavady	63	64	61	60	57	63
Lisburn	113	103	106	109	100	107
Londonderry	175	155	156	171	182	189
Magherafelt	90	67	77	79	78	79
North Antrim	208	217	195	204	204	207
North Down	98	95	91	100	100	102
Newry and Mourne	175	151	181	188	185	184
Omagh	106	93	110	100	112	115
Strabane	82	79	81	83	82	84
Total	2,725	2,426	2,561	2,650	2,802	2,812

Petty Sessions District	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Antrim						
Armagh						
Ards (includes Castlereagh)					1 Breach	
					Fine £400.00	
Ballymena						
Banbridge						
Belfast		2 Breaches	7 Breaches	5 Breaches		1 Breach
		Fine £250.00	4 x Fine £75.00 Licence suspended 1 week	2 x Fine £150.00		8 x Fine £50.00
						4 x Fine £125.00
		Fine £500.00	2 x Fine £400.00	4 x Fine £75.00		
		Fine £750.00	2 x Fine £500.00			
		Licence suspended 1 day	Fine £2,500.00 2 x Licence suspended 6 weeks			
			3 x Fine £1,000.00	2 x Fine £200.00		
				4 x Fine £500.00		
				2 x Fine £750.00		
			2 x Fine £75.00	5 x Fine £250.00		
			2 x Fine £100.00	3 x Fine £500.00		

Petty Sessions District	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
			5 x Fine £750.00	Fine £1,660.00 Licence suspended 1 month		
			3 x Fine £1,500.00			
			Fine £75.00	Fine £75.00		
			Fine £250.00	Fine £100.00 Fine £250.00		
			2 x Fine £750.00	2 x Fine £150.00		
				Fine £200.00		
				Fine £350.00		
			6 x Fine £75.00			
			2 x Fine £100.00			
			2 x Fine £150.00			
			5 x Fine £250.00			
			2 x Fine £500.00 Licence suspended 1 week			
			3 x Fine £100.00			
			4 x Fine £200.00			
			Fine £250.00			
			5 x Fine £500.00			
			Fine £1,000.00			
			Fine £1,500.00			
			Fine £2,000.00			
Craigavon				1 Breach		
				Fine £300.00		
Down				1 Breach		1 Breach
				Fine £200.00 Licence suspended 1 week		Fine £350.00
						Fine £150.00
East Tyrone	1 Breach		2 Breaches		6 Breaches	7 Breaches
	Fine £75.00		Fine £140.00		Fine £750.00 Licence suspended 1 week	Fine £200.00
			Fine £300.00		Fine £200.00 Licence suspended 1 week	Fine £250.00 Fine £150.00
					Fine £300.00	Fine £360.00
					Fine £750.00 Licence suspended 1 week	2 x Fine £500.00
					Fine £300.00	2 x Fine £500.00
					Fine £500.00 Licence suspended 2 weeks	2 x Fine £300.00
						Fine £1,000.00
Fermanagh			1 Breach			
			Fine £450.00			
Larne					1 Breach	
					Fine £500.00	

Petty Sessions District	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Limavady						1 Breach
						Fine £500.00
Lisburn				4 Breaches		
				Fine £100.00		
				Fine £300.00		
				Fine £150.00		
				Fine £150.00		
Londonderry						
Magherafelt						
North Antrim						
North Down					1 Breach	
					Fine £750.00	
Newry and Mourne						1 Breach
						Fine £150.00
Omagh						1 Breach
						2 x Fine £150.00
						Fine £300.00
Strabane		2 Breaches			2 Breaches	4 Breaches
		Fine £250.00			Fine £250.00	Fine £500.00
						2 x Fine £1,000.00
		Fine £250.00			Fine £1,000.00	£2,000.00
						£200.00
						£500.00

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many alcohol licence applications were made in each district council area in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; and how many were *(a)* accepted and *(b)* declined. [130952]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Court data in respect of alcohol licence applications in Northern Ireland are recorded by petty sessions district. Similar information was sought last year and published on 9 October. One application refused in Craigavon in 2001 was omitted from the answer provided then. The following table corrects this mistake and shows the number of alcohol licence applications granted and refused in each of the last six years for each petty sessions district.

Number

	2001		*2002*		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*	
Petty Sessions District	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*
Antrim	4	—	2	—	1	—	2	1	5	—	1	—
Ards (inc Castlereagh)	10	—	7	—	3	—	11	—	9	—	8	—
Armagh	3	—	4	—	9	—	2	—	4	—	5	—
Ballymena	5	—	2	—	5	—	4	—	2	—	4	—
Banbridge	1	—	2	—	1	—	2	—	3	—	1	—
Belfast	26	2	37	—	45	5	25	—	42	—	50	—
Craigavon	3	—	5	—	5	—	7	—	5	—	4	—
Down	6	—	8	—	3	—	3	—	10	—	4	—
East Tyrone	5	—	4	1	9	—	12	—	8	—	7	—
Fermanagh	6	—	4	—	8	—	2	—	0	—	2	—
Lame	0	—	0	—	0	—	4	—	4	—	0	—
Limavady	2	—	1	—	0	—	1	—	3	—	3	—
Lisburn	5	1	4	—	8	—	2	—	6	—	10	—
Londonderry	19	—	10	—	8	—	8	—	12	—	5	—
Magherafelt	3	—	8	—	3	—	2	—	1	—	2	—

Number

	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
Newry and Mourne	3	—	3	—	4	—	4	—	4	—	14	—
North Antrim	8	—	9	—	2	—	8	—	9	—	7	—
North Down	0	—	1	—	5	—	3	—	4	—	6	—
Omagh	5	—	2	—	5	—	2	—	6	—	8	—
Strabane	0	—	1	—	1	—	3	—	3	—	0	—
Total	114	3	114	1	125	5	107	1	140	0	141	0

Northern Ireland Water

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what septic tank emptying service Northern Ireland Water has offered since 1 April 2007; what charges are planned for this service; what revenue is expected in each of the next three financial years; and if he will make a statement; [133315]

(2) what the status is of the septic tank emptying agreements between Northern Ireland Water and households in Northern Ireland; what direct communication the households concerned have received on the alteration of the agreements; and if he will make a statement. [133316]

David Cairns: The Water and Sewerage Services (NI) Order 2006 transferred responsibility for the delivery of water and sewerage services from the Department's Water Service Agency to a statutory water and sewerage undertaker. A government-owned company, Northern Ireland Water (NIW) has been appointed as the undertaker and the issues raised are operational matters for it. I have asked the Chief Executive of NIW (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to these questions.

Proscribed Organisations

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his assessment is of *(a)* recruitment, *(b)* weapons procurement, *(c)* bomb making capability and *(d)* other recent activity by dissident Republican paramilitary organisations. [132478]

Mr. Hain: As stated in the fourteenth IMC report, dissident republicans continue their attempts to recruit members and to procure and develop weapons. Dissident republicans have proved they are capable of making munitions and are a real and capable threat, as the recent find of a sophisticated mortar device in Lurgan demonstrates. While they continue to be intent on causing serious harm, I have every confidence in the PSNI's ability to deal with this threat.

Regeneration

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which communities have received funding from the Renewing Communities programme since the establishment of the scheme; and how much each received. [132281]

Mr. Hanson: The Renewing Communities programme was established April 2006 as a wide range of over 60 actions spread across eight Government Departments. It incorporates existing policies and programmes that are central to Government's efforts in tackling deprivation wherever it exists. These are mainstream programmes involving allocations of funding in excess of £200 million and supporting disadvantaged communities across all of Northern Ireland.

In addition, a smaller number of pilot projects have been developed to target disadvantaged communities and to test new ideas and new ways of working to combat specific aspects of local deprivation. These pilot projects account for an annual budget of approximately £14 million over the two years 2006-08. Careful analysis of these projects will show that many are open to participants and communities from across the traditional divide. While we are barely half way through what is a two year funding initiative, it is too early to report accurately on the actual spend in specific communities. However, it is worth noting that around one third of all the Renewing Communities Actions are specifically targeted on pilot programmes in single identity Protestant communities experiencing some of the worst levels of deprivation.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps were taken to ensure that *(a)* the Renewing Communities programme and *(b)* the projects supported by funding from that scheme honoured the equality provisions as laid out in the Northern Ireland Act 1998; and if he will make a statement. [132282]

Mr. Hanson: In developing the Renewing Communities Action Plan, all Government Departments were asked to identify existing policies and programmes that were relevant to addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities, including those in Protestant areas, in line with recommendations made in the cross-departmental Taskforce Report published in April 2006. This included two emerging programmes in the Children and Young People's package and the Skills and Science package announced in early 2006. Each of these major policies and programmes, forming the core of Government's response, have already been subjected to equality screening by the responsible lead Department.

Also included in the Renewing Communities Action Plan are a number of initiatives designed to try new ideas for tackling specific aspects of deprivation and to

test new ways to work with and in disadvantaged communities. After thorough evaluation and assessment, if these projects prove successful, then the appropriate lead Department will take steps to roll out successful programmes across all communities experiencing similar deprivation. At this stage the lead Department will be required to carry out an equality assessment prior to the introduction of any new policy.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the operation of the Renewing Communities programme since its establishment; and what the future plans for the scheme are. [132283]

Mr. Hanson: The Renewing Communities Plan has been a positive development for Northern Ireland. A cross-departmental Delivery Team, chaired by the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, has been established to review and monitor progress of all of the actions contained in the Renewing Communities Action Plan. The Delivery Team has reported regularly to me on the progress of the programme across all of the actions and of the arrangements to ensure cohesive inter-departmental working where appropriate. Individual lead Departments and their delivery agencies have been tasked with the responsibility for the evaluation of all their relevant actions before the Delivery Team completes an overview assessment of all the programmes of actions.

Following these two levels of assessment, the Delivery Team will determine those particular programmes which are considered to have potential to be rolled out across all disadvantaged communities and mainstreamed as part of each Department's contribution to tackling deprivation wherever it exists.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many public authority houses were sold by the housing associations and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2007. [132099]

Mr. Hanson: Between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2007 the Northern Ireland Housing Executive sold a total of 29,844 houses to sitting tenants In the same period registered housing associations in Northern Ireland sold 911 houses to sitting tenants.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total housing stock owned by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the housing associations *(a)* is and *(b)* was in April (i) 2000, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2004 and (iv) 2006; and if he will make a statement. [132100]

Mr. Hanson: The total housing stock owned by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive at the dates requested was:

At 31 March	*Total stock*
2000	128,622
2002	113,272
2004	102,850
2006	95,067
2007	92,118

The total housing stock which is owned by the Northern Ireland registered housing associations is not yet available as the returns for the year ended 31 March 2007 are not due from associations until Friday 29 June 2007.

Stock owned by the Northern Ireland registered housing associations, excluding the Northern Ireland Co-ownership Housing Association stock, at the dates requested was:

At 31 March	*Housing apartments*	*Supported sheltered bedspaces*	*Total*
2000	17,389	3,873	21,262
2002	18,900	3,695	22,595
2004	21,052	3,845	24,897
2006	22,076	4,427	26,503

South Eastern Education and Library Board

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the timetable is for reinstatement of the South Eastern Education and Library Board; and if he will make a statement. [133332]

Maria Eagle: Commissioners were appointed to the South Eastern Education and Library Board only because of the failure of Board members to operate effectively and within the resources allocated by my Department and voted by Parliament. I have always made clear that I would respond positively to any credible approach from Board members that was coupled with a firm assurance that they were prepared to work together constructively, meeting the necessary corporate governance requirements, taking decisions within the resources allocated and taking account of Government policy priorities. To date no such approach has been forthcoming.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Business: Ethics

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the Corporate Social Responsibility Academy Management Committee last met. [132902]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to his questions, 132544, 132545, 132546 and 132547 answered on 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 767W.

The CSR Academy did not have a management committee. The Project Director reported to DTI and the Academy Chairman through quarterly reports and met with DTI on a regular basis.

Companies House: Standards

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether Companies House targets issued by his office on 16 April vary from existing targets. [132610]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 April 2007]*: There are some changes between the targets set for Companies House in 2006-07 and those set in 2007-08. Copies of written statements giving targets for both years are available in the House of Commons Library; and at 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 100WS, and 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 4WS.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Department's Ministers held with (i) business representatives, (ii) trade union representatives and (iii) consumer representatives in 2006. [128750]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers regularly meet business, trade union and consumer representatives but information on the number held could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Fees and Charges

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential contribution to environmental protection of the proposed measures in the European Commission's draft Directive on Airport Charges; and if he will make a statement. [131726]

Gillian Merron: The draft directive on airport charges sets common principles to be respected by airport operators when they determine the level of airport charges. It contains no measures concerning environmental protection, but does not prohibit airport operators from setting environmental charges provided that they do so in accordance with the directive. The Department is currently consulting UK stakeholders on the proposals.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the airport emissions charging principles recommended by the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC/27-4); and if he will make a statement. [131733]

Gillian Merron: ECAC recommended a harmonised method for classifying aircraft according to their NOx emissions for the potential purpose of emission charges. The Civil Aviation Act 2006 provides powers for all airports to introduce charges that reflect the pollution generated by each aircraft type, in the way that Heathrow and Gatwick already do. Those charging schemes already follow the recommended method.

British Airways: Standards

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment his Department has made of the recent performance of British Airways; [132008]

(2) what discussions he has had with British Airways on their record of service to travellers in recent months; [132009]

(3) what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* British Airways and *(b)* BAA plc has made appropriate preparations to manage risk. [132010]

Gillian Merron: As private companies, British Airways and BAA are responsible in the first instance to their shareholders for their performance. However, on behalf of transport users the Department takes a close interest in the operations of all UK airports and airlines as we do with all transport sectors, and in that context regular engagement is maintained with BA and BAA, including on consumer issues.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in his Department participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [131547]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport came into being on 29 May 2002 and therefore figures before this date are not available.

Since that date, the figures are:

	Involuntary	*Voluntary*
2002-03	1	1
2003-04	0	26
2004-05	0	109
2005-06	0	162
2006-07	0	352

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in his Department who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [131552]

Gillian Merron: The Department was formed in May 2002 and the information requested is in the table as follows.

Lump sum compensation payments

	2002-03	2003-04[1]	2004-05[1]	2005-06[1]	2006-07[1]
Department for Transport	One involuntary staff exit (between £50,001 and £75,000) and one voluntary for which details are not available	i. 17 ii. 3 iii. 0 iv. 0 v. 0; Six other voluntary exits for which details are not available	i. 26 ii. 52 iii. 29 iv. 1 v. 0; One other voluntary exit for which details are not available	i. 72 ii. 31 iii. 26 iv. 6 v. 10; 17 other voluntary exits for which details are not available	i. 260 ii. 66 iii. 12 iv. 6 v. 8
Driving Standards Agency	Information not available due to current change over of HR/Finance IT systems				

[1] Voluntary

London Airports: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what impact charges on the emission of oxides of nitrogen on *(a)* landing and *(b)* take-off at Heathrow and Gatwick airports have had on such emissions in each year since their introduction; and whether the revenue from those charges is hypothecated for spending on further emissions reduction measures. [131725]

Gillian Merron: It is too early to assess the effect of charges. The current framework is essentially revenue neutral with rebates for clean aircraft funded by the less clean aircraft. This, and other levers, have encouraged the industry to commit to reducing NOx emissions by 80 per cent. for new aircraft in 2020 compared with 2000.

Roads: Construction

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of motorway and trunk road network of national strategic routes have been widened to ease traffic bottlenecks. [131752]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1246W.

TREASURY

Civil Servants: Location

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants have moved to *(a)* Huddersfield and *(b)* Kirklees since the Lyons Review. [132007]

Mr. Timms: By December last year 11,068 posts had been relocated out of London and the South East to every nation and region in the UK, with 2,287 moving to Yorkshire and Humberside.

To date no posts have been moved to Huddersfield or Kirklees.

However, a number of posts have moved to within commuting distance of Kirklees, including 293 posts relocated to Leeds from seven different Government Departments (DCA, DCLG, DFES, DH, DTI, HMRC and HO), with a further 113 DWP posts relocated to Halifax and 129 DWP posts to Bradford.

EC Budget: Contributions

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the UK has paid per head of UK population in gross contributions to the European Union since becoming a member. [132808]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1669W.

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net contribution paid by the UK to the EU was since (i) 1997 and (ii) 1 January 2006; and whether he holds information on what those figures are since 1972. [133015]

Ed Balls: Details of the United Kingdom's gross contributions after taking account of the abatement, the amount paid to the EC Budget, public sector receipts and net contributions to the EC Budget in the years 2000 to 2005, together with an estimate for 2006, can be found in Table 3 (page 46) of the European Community Finances White Paper (Cm 6770) published in May 2006. Figures for earlier years can be found in the equivalent tables which have been published in earlier editions of this annual White Paper. An outturn figure for 2006, together with an estimate for 2007, will be published in the 2007 edition of the White Paper.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1750W, on ministerial visits, what the cost was of each visit undertaken by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury in the last two years. [133236]

Ed Balls: All ministerial visits are conducted in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers. As with all inquiries relating to the cost of ministerial travel, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the information the Government have published on an annual basis since 1999, listing overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 and the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

NHS: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the likely impact on the NHS of Schedule 3 of the Finance Bill. [132993]

Mr. Timms: Such information, as is available, on the impact of Schedule 3 of the Finance Bill is included in

the Regulatory Impact Assessment 'Managed Service Companies' published on the HMRC website on 29 March 2007.

Public Expenditure: Scotland

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what basis central government funding is allocated to Scotland; whether he plans to review the funding formula; and what the allocation per head of population was in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales in 2006. [132805]

Mr. Timms: The basis for central Government funding of the devolved Administrations is set out in the Statement of Funding Policy published by the Treasury in July 2004. The Government have no plans to review the Barnett formula. Identifiable spending per head in England, Scotland and Wales in 2005-06 is £6,762, £8,265 and £7,666 respectively; these figures include both devolved and reserved spending and are published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (Cm 6811).

Stamp Duties

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the number of zero-carbon homes which may qualify for relief from stamp duty under the provisions of Clause 19 of the Finance Bill, broken down by region. [132995]

Ed Balls: No estimate is available of the numbers of qualifying zero-carbon homes by region.

Suicide: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many suicides were committed in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [132919]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 20 April 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many suicides were committed in each London borough in each of the last ten years. I am replying in her absence. (132919)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, in each London Borough, from 1996 to 2005 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide (death from intentional self-harm, or injury or poisoning of undetermined intent) was the underlying cause of death[1], London boroughs, 1996-2005[2, 3]

Deaths (persons)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Greater London	628	667	778	682	621	630	630	659	627	620
Inner London	310	324	352	334	295	308	298	306	305	291
Camden	28	28	45	31	30	25	25	30	38	27
City of London	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0
Hackney	26	18	22	23	20	28	18	17	20	17
Hammersmith and Fulham	14	19	12	23	15	22	15	12	19	24
Haringey	26	21	21	14	15	27	21	25	18	21
Islington	22	19	26	30	23	25	30	26	36	27
Kensington and Chelsea	18	19	22	22	19	18	17	17	20	19
Lambeth	44	31	41	32	26	27	23	29	25	22
Lewisham	25	37	36	30	28	17	24	19	22	24
Newham	14	13	25	20	23	22	12	23	21	16
Southwark	25	35	29	33	29	20	26	33	24	24
Tower Hamlets	14	21	20	19	17	22	29	18	19	10
Wandsworth	24	34	33	35	21	24	31	30	20	26
Westminster	29	27	20	21	28	30	27	26	22	34
Outer London	318	343	426	348	326	322	332	353	322	329
Barking and Dagenham	7	10	13	16	11	12	12	8	8	6
Barnet	25	23	28	27	32	23	23	25	20	24
Bexley	16	18	19	21	10	15	14	18	20	12
Brent	26	23	37	23	21	23	22	22	18	14
Bromley	20	17	28	25	17	24	22	25	24	17
Croydon	38	25	28	21	25	13	20	26	21	25
Ealing	18	27	38	23	31	17	33	23	26	38
Enfield	27	16	19	18	16	29	25	24	21	20
Greenwich	16	24	25	24	9	18	14	16	18	26
Harrow	9	20	17	14	17	18	20	15	17	13
Havering	11	14	15	11	17	11	14	14	7	10
Hillingdon	26	17	24	25	21	24	23	32	16	17

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide (death from intentional self-harm, or injury or poisoning of undetermined intent) was the underlying cause of death[1], London boroughs, 1996-2005[2, 3]

									Deaths (persons)	
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Hounslow	14	16	17	20	14	16	21	10	22	18
Kingston upon Thames	10	8	22	11	7	7	14	8	18	16
Merton	10	17	15	16	17	14	12	18	13	19
Redbridge	14	17	23	12	14	12	14	23	18	14
Richmond upon Thames	6	14	19	19	24	12	6	14	13	7
Sutton	12	21	12	12	14	8	6	17	4	20
Waltham Forest	13	16	27	10	9	21	17	15	18	11

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989 excluding E988.8 for the years 1995 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34 excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2004. Figures are for persons aged 15 and over.
[2] Based on local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Tax Credits

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the official advice provided to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding his decision in 1993 to reduce from 25 to 20 per cent. the tax credits on dividends. [132446]

Ed Balls: I and my ministerial colleagues do not have access to the papers of the previous Conservative Administration.

Taxation: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he made of the potential for fiscal incentives to contribute to the promotion of responsible drinking prior to the 2007 Budget; and what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Health on this matter. [131938]

Mr. Timms: The Chancellor makes decisions about the appropriate level of excise duty on alcohol at Budget time, taking all relevant factors into consideration. Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

WALES

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Department. [132190]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office ensures that value for money is achieved on all hospitality expenditure, which is conducted in accordance with the principles of Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Grandparents: Parental Responsibility

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many grandparents claim income support allowances for grandchildren towards whom they act as parents. [133013]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 23 April 2007

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Frigates: Romania

Harry Cohen: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress has been made with the investigation by the Serious Fraud Office and Ministry of Defence Police into the sale of two ex-Royal Navy frigates to Romania by BAE; and if he will make a statement. [132856]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office is investigating alleged offences involving BAE Systems plc. Further comment cannot be made for cases currently under investigation.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Security

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of tonnes of liquids which have been confiscated at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick, *(c)* Stansted, *(d)* Manchester and *(e)* Birmingham airports since 10 August 2006. [132904]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not collect any data on the amount of liquids confiscated through central search at UK airports.

Bus Services: Accidents

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving passengers on London bus services were reported in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* London borough and *(b)* London bus route; and if he will make a statement. [132648]

Dr. Ladyman: Information showing the number of reported personal injury road accidents involving bus/coaches by London borough in each of the last five years is given in the following table. 2005 is the latest year for which data are available. Many of these accidents include buses/coaches which had no passenger casualties. Additionally some of the buses/coaches may have had no passengers at all. The information requested broken down by bus route is not collected.

Number of reported personal injury road accidents involving buses/coaches[1,2] by London borough: 2001-05

London borough	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
City of London	47	44	40	49	53
Barking	55	41	39	30	28
Barnet	105	95	104	87	78
Bexley	61	64	41	53	50
Brent	98	91	91	76	92
Bromley	70	113	76	98	78
Camden	168	128	161	146	123
Croydon	110	88	99	89	117
Ealing	90	98	106	107	115
Enfield	71	83	82	88	57
Greenwich	100	98	113	101	94
Hackney	124	95	130	113	98
Hammersmith	84	53	82	66	67
Haringey	109	90	96	107	76
Harrow	47	28	38	31	32
Havering	54	63	49	77	45
Hillingdon	44	52	57	73	59
Hounslow	63	60	59	60	61
Islington	123	98	107	123	89
Kensington and Chelsea	75	62	79	62	71
Kingston upon Thames	31	34	42	26	38
Lambeth	174	165	170	152	149
Lewisham	137	132	127	132	122
Merton	55	52	47	41	45
Newham	77	79	80	72	70
Redbridge	63	57	55	51	42
Richmond upon Thames	60	42	49	41	43
Southwark	202	158	178	148	135
Sutton	37	33	41	38	44
Tower Hamlets	59	51	54	44	55
Waltham Forest	57	54	62	65	56
Wandsworth	96	93	109	110	87
Westminster	400	370	434	383	291
Total	3,146	2,864	3,097	2,939	2,660

[1] Buses or coaches equipped to carry more than 17 passengers, regardless of use.
[2] Many of these accidents include buses/coaches which had no passenger casualties. Additionally some of the buses/coaches may have had no passengers at all.

Dartford Tunnel: Tolls

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether a discount for Bexley residents has been considered as part of the consultation on the future of Dartford Crossing tolls. [132791]

Dr. Ladyman: No decisions have yet been taken. The Department will be consulting on its proposals for local discounts in due course.

Driver Information Systems

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish the results of the consultation on the In-Vehicle Information Systems; and if he will make a statement. [132535]

Dr. Ladyman: The replies to the consultation are in the process of being analysed, with consideration also being given to other relevant material such as the 26 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1769 Adjournment debate on satellite navigation. Once this work is complete, the results of the consultation will be published. No date has yet been fixed but I expect the information to be issued shortly.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps *(a)* to regulate in-vehicle information systems and *(b)* to produce a code of conduct to mitigate incorrect routeing by navigation systems; and if he will make a statement. [132552]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport is reviewing the existing legislation and practice on in-vehicle information systems (MS). The review is being informed by responses to the recent MS public consultation and by other relevant information. Our chief interest is to ensure, whether by regulation, code of practice and/or other means, that the human-machine interface aspects of route guidance systems are safe and that the guidance offered by such systems is designed so as to avoid inappropriate routeing. No conclusions have yet been reached on the best way forward. Any proposal developed following the review will be subject to further public consultation as part of the statutory process.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many keepers of foreign registered vehicles re-registered their vehicle details with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years. [132946]

Dr. Ladyman: The following are volumes of used imported vehicles since 2001 We do not have figures for the last 10 years.

	Number
2006	94,730
2005	112,908
2004	130,558
2003	133,999
2002	107,267
2001	106,105

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the crackdown on overseas registered vehicles announced in August 2006. [132947]

Dr. Ladyman: Checks by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) on drivers and vehicles on international journeys in the South East of England increased from 14,100 in 2005-06 to 34,500 in 2006-07. 47 per cent. of the vehicles checked for roadworthiness were found to have defects which could result in prohibition, 20 per cent. of the checks on drivers' hours showed offences and 26 per cent. of vehicles weighed were overloaded.

This increased level of activity has been effective in the number of dangerous vehicles and drivers been prevented from continuing their journeys on the UK road network. It is too early to say whether there has been any deterrent effect.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the change in numbers of foreign registered vehicles on UK roads over the last 15 years. [132949]

Dr. Ladyman: We do not collect data on the number of foreign registered vehicles on UK roads.

Rescue Services: Compensation

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is taking to ensure a quick resolution of the dispute between the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and coastguard rescue officers over injury cover; [133517]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on the dispute with coastguard rescue officers over insurance cover; and if he will make a statement. [133520]

Dr. Ladyman: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has kept me fully informed of developments with the withdrawal of front-line services by some Coastguard Rescue Teams. Full-time staff within the MCA and the volunteer members of its Coastguard Rescue Service are covered for injuries sustained while on duty and consequential loss of earnings by the Civil Service Injury Benefits Scheme (CSIBS) details of which can be found at:

http://www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.civilservice_pensions.gov.uk/rules/csibs_81206.pdf

Discussions within the MCA have resulted in agreement on interim arrangements and a full search and rescue service has resumed. A MCA working group is being set up to consider compensation arrangements for the future.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that volunteer coastguard rescue officers injured on duty receive prompt and adequate compensation; [133518]

(2) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of injury cover for volunteer coastguard rescue officers. [133519]

Dr. Ladyman: In the event of an injury on duty, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has in place the following procedures:

an interim payment scheme to avoid hardship;

entitlement to make a claim as a person performing duties on behalf of the Crown from the Civil Service Injury Benefits Scheme.

The MCA is actively considering future arrangements and is discussing concerns with coastguard rescue officers.

Road Traffic Offences: Foreign Registered Vehicles

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the cost of traffic penalty evasion by foreign registered vehicles in the UK. [132941]

Dr. Ladyman: We have made no quantified assessment. However we have recognised this is an important enforcement issue which we intend to address through the deposit scheme and which will require an immediate payment from those who cannot provide a satisfactory UK address.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency has powers to receive up-to-date foreign vehicle keeper data from foreign vehicle licensing agencies for the purposes of assisting UK local authorities in carrying out their civil enforcement responsibilities. [132942]

Dr. Ladyman: Currently there is no European or international law providing a legal framework for data exchange specifically for these purposes. Therefore each case would need to be considered on its merits and the specific legal duties arising, including data protection and privacy issues.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any foreign registered vehicles have been stopped and made to pay an immediate deposit for a traffic penalty since the passage of the Road Safety Act 2006. [132943]

Dr. Ladyman: No. The graduated fixed penalty and financial penalty deposit provisions for roadworthiness and traffic offences in the Road Safety Act 2006 have not yet been implemented.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government plan to take to improve enforcement of traffic penalties against the owners of foreign registered vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [132945]

Dr. Ladyman: We intend to introduce regulations under the provisions of the Road Safety Act 2006 that will allow police officers—and also enforcement officers from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency—to issue fixed penalties to offenders in non-GB-registered vehicles and to offenders without a satisfactory address in the UK.

A deposit will be taken from the offender at the time the fixed penalty notice is issued. Enforcers will also be able to immobilise a vehicle in any case where there is any risk that an offender may refuse to pay a deposit. It will also be possible for enforcers to immobilise a vehicle where it appears an offender to drive away in contravention of any prohibition which has been issued, either in respect the driver, or in cases where the vehicle has been deemed unfit to continue with the journey.

West Coast Mainline: Railway Stations

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the ability of platforms on the West Coast Mainline to facilitate longer trains. [133480]

Mr. Tom Harris: Platforms at stations on the West Coast Main Line already have the capability of accommodating longer trains or proposals exist to extend them this as necessary.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Ports: Thames Estuary

Bob Spink: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the impact of the operation in the Thames estuary of the proposed liquefied natural gas importation plant on Canvey Island on the operation of the proposed container terminal at Shell Haven; and if he will make a statement. [132135]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

The application for planning permission for a liquefied natural gas importation facility on Canvey Island is currently the subject of an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, following refusal of the application by the Local Planning Authority in September 2006. It would be inappropriate to prejudge the outcome of the appeal process.

The application for a Harbour Empowerment Order for a container terminal at Shell Haven is currently under consideration by the Secretary of State, further to his minded view of 8 August 2006.

The regulation of navigation in the Thames estuary is the responsibility of the Port of London Authority as the conservancy authority and statutory harbour authority. It is for the Port of London Authority to assess any operational traffic impacts and make proper provision for the safe regulation of river traffic to and from any relevant port developments which may be implemented in the estuary.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Press Gallery

22. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what assessment has been made of utilising part of the Press Gallery above the Commons Chamber for visitor access. [132699]

Nick Harvey: Only security-screened pass holders or Members' guests can sit in front of the security screen and visitors are restricted to the area behind the security screen. This is based on security advice and a result of a number of incidents of which the Member will be aware. However, Mr. Speaker is keen to welcome visitors to the House and has asked that officers look into this proposal.

Services Survey

25. **Bob Spink:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when he expects to report the results of the recent survey of services. [132702]

Nick Harvey: The report of the Survey of Services is currently being drafted by FDS, the independent market research company contracted to undertake the survey. The report will be considered by the House of Commons Commission in May and will be made available to Members and their staff.

Parliament: Parking

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much he estimates would be raised each year by the introduction of a £10 flat fee charge to use car parking facilities on the parliamentary estate, assuming a continuation of the present level of usage. [132472]

Nick Harvey: There are no plans to introduce charges for use of car parking facilities on the parliamentary estate.

Portcullis House: Escalators

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will ensure that the opportunity afforded by the works due to be undertaken to the Portcullis House escalator is used to reintroduce motion-sensitive operation. [132470]

Nick Harvey: The new escalators will incorporate motion sensitive operation with an energy-efficient control system.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how long the Portcullis House escalator has been in use; how much has been spent on *(a)* repairs and *(b)* maintenance since its introduction; and what the estimated cost is of the works planned for autumn 2007. [132471]

Nick Harvey: The escalators have been in use since Portcullis House opened in September 2000. The following has been spent on:

(a) Repairs: £26,421

(b) Maintenance: £5,112 (£852 per annum).

The estimated cost of the escalator works for this summer is £327,000.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent on hospitality by his Office in the financial year 2006-07. [133265]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings (Mr. Hayes) and the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 11 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 788W.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list his meetings with outside interest groups which took place between 1 January and 31 March. [132436]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

EU Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister on which occasions in the last 12 months he has met representatives of campaign bodies and think tanks advocating closer EU integration. [133093]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Regulation

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps she has taken to ensure that the work of the Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator are fully compatible in respect of charities which work across the UK. [132932]

Edward Miliband: The Government are keen to promote compatible regulation for charities that operate throughout the UK, while recognising that charity law and regulation is a devolved matter in Scotland and Northern Ireland. There is a UK and Ireland Charity Regulators' Forum, to advance a consistent regulatory approach and to share information and best practice. The first meeting of regulators in England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic took place in October 2006. The Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) have developed and published a Memorandum of Understanding, and specific guidance for charities that operate in both jurisdictions. The Commission and OSCR are also working together on the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charity Accounting and jointly sponsor the Committee which is reviewing this. They also hold regular bilateral meetings as appropriate to discuss other matters of mutual interest.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on hospitality by her Department in the last 12 months. [133235]

Hilary Armstrong: Costs incurred on Official Hospitality in 2006-07, which covers the last 12 months, will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2007 summer recess.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on official hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will list the meetings between Ministers from her Department and outside interest groups which took place between 1st January and 31st March. [132437]

Hilary Armstrong: Ministers and civil servants meet a large number of people and groups in the course of their official duties. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Coroners

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on changes in the point of arrival for military fatalities from overseas and the implications for the Coroners Service; what plans she has to allocate further resources to the relevant coroner in the event that the point of arrival for military fatalities from overseas is changed *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently; and if she will make a statement. [131715]

Ms Harman: I have had discussions with the Secretary of State for Defence about military inquests but decisions about the repatriation of military fatalities are for him. The bodies of service personnel will now arrive at RAF Lyneham which is within the jurisdiction of the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner. It is expected that he will transfer the majority of inquests to the place where the funeral is to be held. I will continue to regularly review progress regarding these inquests.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by her Department. [132207]

Ms Harman: My Department follows the principles of "Government Accounting" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety" in respect of hospitality.

These sources are supplemented by DCA internal policy on regularity and propriety forming part of the departmental Finance Manual that applies to all staff. This requires that hospitality be appropriate to the circumstances and states that it is not appropriate for public money to be used for staff functions such as leaving parties.

The only specific reference to alcohol within the policy relates to staff conferences, where it states:

"a modest amount of table wine can be provided with the (conference) meal. However, the amount and frequency should be tightly controlled. The cost of the wine should form part of the consideration of the overall cost of the event".

Beyond this, DCA policy requires that all substantive hospitality given or received by staff be approved in advance by a senior officer with details entered on a hospitality (and gifts) register.

This policy covers all DCA staff, including those in agencies. It excludes Ministers and judges who have their own codes of conduct.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by hiss Department. [132198]

Hilary Benn: DFID's Staff Handbook contains detailed guidance on official entertainment including expenditure on alcohol. Financial control is largely managed through delegation to Heads of Department who are responsible for their respective budgets. Further controls are exercised through sample spot checks of expenditure undertaken by DFID's Accounts Group.

Gaza: Sewers

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the long-term effects of the sewage situation in Gaza following the flooding of Um Al Nasser on 27 March. [132083]

Hilary Benn: The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs collates assessments of the sewage flooding in Gaza by members of the international community.

Of 158 houses in the Um Al Nasser village that have been assessed, some 95 need minor repairs, three are in need of major repairs and six houses will have to be completely rehabilitated. The Palestinian Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation are currently working on an assessment of the long-term health effects of the flooding.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations have been made to the Israeli Government to ensure that access is granted to those involved in the task of building new Gaza sewage plants. [132084]

Hilary Benn: The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and the World Bank met with the Government of Israel on 28 March. Following this, the Israeli Government agreed to provide free access to the area, to facilitate the import of necessary equipment, and to provide technicians. The UK has made no representations to the Israeli Government on this issue.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the UK is offering towards international efforts to build new treatment plants to prevent future sewage floodings in Gaza. [132085]

Hilary Benn: The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) and the World Bank have been leading a joint donor project to provide more sewerage facilities since 2004. This comprises three phases. Phase One will reduce the risk of imminent flooding into residential areas; Phase Two will create additional capacity through building a larger pumping station; and Phase Three involves building a new treatment plant.

The PWA already has funds available for Phase One, which it aims to complete in June 2007. The World Bank, France, Sweden, Belgium and the European Commission have contributed to Phases Two and Three of this project. The European Commission has contributed around €6 million, of which the UK pays a 17 per cent. share (just over €1 million). The UK is not contributing direct financial assistance to the project. DFID has been encouraging those donors directly involved to move forward as quickly as possible, and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

HIV/AIDS and TB

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget for HIV/AIDS was spent on tuberculosis/HIV collaborative activities in each year between 2003 and 2006. [111209]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has recently introduced a new methodology for monitoring AIDS and HIV expenditure. Bilateral expenditure figures based on this methodology are shown in the following table.

Table 1: DFID bilateral expenditure on HIV/AIDS 2003-04 to 2005-06

	£ million
2003-04	205.2
2004-05	253.3
2005-06	315.4

The level of detail available on our central systems does not allow us to systematically capture the amount of expenditure on HIV/TB collaborative activities. However, DFID is able to separately identify spending on communicable disease control, of which spending on TB-related activities is a part. Table 2 shows estimates of DFID's bilateral expenditure, excluding poverty reduction budget support (PRBS), on communicable disease control over the same period. This table only includes directly targeted support and excludes other expenditure which will have an impact on TB such as broader support to strengthen health systems.

Table 2: Direct DFID bilateral expenditure on communicable diseases 2003-04 to 2005-06

	£ million
2003-04	65.2
2004-05	80.7
2005-06	82.2

DFID recognises that the efforts against HIV and TB are inextricably linked. TB incidence rates have at least doubled in Sub-Saharan Africa in the last 15 years. 50 per cent. of TB deaths are of people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) in Africa (7 per cent. in south East Asia). TB/HIV co-infection is now the central and most worrying feature of the epidemic. The two diseases must be considered together. The biggest challenge to integration in resource limited settings is human resources. TB diagnosis is also difficult in PLWHA, and TB and HIV drug interactions make treatment very complex. New TB diagnostic tools are needed.

DFID is providing support to help countries strengthen their health systems. In Malawi, we are helping with a £100 million emergency programme over six years, part of which aims to double the number of nurses and triple the number of doctors, and retain them through better pay and conditions, with a salary increase of 50 per cent. We are also providing support directly to strengthen national TB programmes: For example, in China, DFID has allocated £28 million over seven years towards reducing tuberculosis morbidity and mortality through an effective and sustainable national TB control programme focused on the poor. This has involved raising case detection and treatment through directly observed treatment short course (DOTS) based services.

In addition DFID funds a variety of multilateral organisations that contribute to programmes targeting both HIV/AIDS and TB. Most notably we have pledged £359 million to date to support the global fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), as our principal support for the provision of TB drugs.

Iraq: Refugees

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what funding and resources he provided for services for refugees in Iraq in each of the last three years; [132392]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of Iraqi citizens who have left Iraq in each year since 2001; [132393]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of internally displaced people in Iraq. [132394]

Hilary Benn: UN agencies estimate that some 1.9 million Iraqis are currently internally displaced and around 2 million others have fled to neighbouring countries. Statistics broken down by year are unavailable.

We are very concerned about the increase in displacement and rising humanitarian needs resulting from ongoing sectarian violence. DFID continues to support the UN and other humanitarian agencies to assist vulnerable people in Iraq including refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs). So far this year, we have contributed £10 million to support humanitarian agencies working in Iraq and the region, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). This takes our overall humanitarian assistance to Iraq to £125 million since 2003.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to answer the letters of *(a)* 18 December 2006 and

6) 19 December 2006 from the hon. Member for Northavon, which were transferred to his Department from HM Treasury on 3 January, on the financing of AIDS treatment around the world. [133358]

Mr. Thomas: Our records show that these letters of 18 and 19 December 2006 from the hon. Member for Northavon were not received in DFID. DFID officials have now obtained copies of these letters and a reply has been issued.

Nepal: Overseas Aid

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has any plans to increase its funding for developmental projects in Nepal. [129536]

Mr. Thomas: Last year DFID allocated £30 million for our programme in Nepal. Following the People's Movement which ended a period of the King's autocratic rule and reinstated Parliament, we increased our programme to £37 million for the year. For the new financial year we are increasing it further, to £43 million.

I was able to announce this increase during my recent visit to Nepal. I made it clear that £13 million of the new resources should be allocated to the Nepal Peace Trust Fund, to directly assist with implementation of the peace process. Over and above these increases to our regular budget for Nepal, the UK Government have also agreed to provide at least £23.5 in debt relief until 2015 to help Nepal meet its debt service payments to the World Bank.

Uganda: Overseas Aid

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department is providing assistance to the Ugandan Government to facilitate the maintenance and expansion of safe areas in Northern Uganda. [132377]

Hilary Benn: The peace talks in Juba that have been taking place since July 2006 have resulted in huge improvements in the security situation in northern Uganda. In some areas people are now returning to their homes. In other areas, people are more cautious and still remain in camps. The Government of Uganda and their development partners have agreed that the process of return must be voluntary.

Through our funding to the UN Consolidated Appeal we are helping provide humanitarian assistance both to people still living in displaced camps and those returning home. In the return areas this help includes: the provision of food to bridge the period while crops are being grown; the re-habilitation of water points; support to health services and the provision of protection programmes for women and children.

With resources from the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool, we are also purchasing vehicles and communications equipment for the Uganda Police Force in the north. This is in support of a wider programme that is seeking to reintroduce and strengthen civilian policing both in the camps and the return areas. The absence of civilian police in many part of the north has been identified by communities as a major impediment to better protection, particularly of women and children.

Written Questions

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to reply to Question 111209, on his Department's budget for tuberculosis/HIV collaborative activities, tabled by the hon. Member for St. Ives on 22nd January 2007. [132965]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave today (UIN 111209).

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Public Petitions

23. **John Robertson:** To ask the Leader of the House what discussions he has had on changes to the House's procedures relating to public petitions. [132700]

Paddy Tipping: My right hon. Friend has received a number of representations about public petitions and believes that this House has a valuable role to play in looking at such petitions. The Procedure Committee has been examining the subject and has been taking evidence. I understand the Committee is due to report in the near future.

Members' Allowances

26. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Leader of the House what rules are in place to govern hon. Members' new communications allowances. [132703]

Paddy Tipping: Under the terms of the resolution of the House of 28 March, the Communications Allowance is subject to detailed rules and guidance determined by the Members Estimate Committee. A detailed booklet on the "Communications Allowance and the Use of House Stationery", issued by the Department of Finance and Administration and the Department of the Serjeant-at-Arms, was placed on the parliamentary intranet on 30 March. Hard copies of the booklet were posted to each Member last week. Relevant claim forms for the Communications Allowance were also posted on the intranet on 30 March and have been included with the booklet being distributed to Members.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Office. [132197]

Mr. Straw: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons operates under a strict hospitality policy which limits the amount of money that can be spent on alcohol for official purposes.

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how much his Office spent on hospitality in financial year 2006-07. [133262]

Mr. Straw: In 2006-07, the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons spent £5,823.23 on hospitality.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House if he will list the meetings between Ministers from his Office and outside interest groups which took place between 1st January and 31st March. [132438]

Mr. Straw: Ministers from the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons met with representatives of outside interest groups nine times during the period specified. I have set out details of those meetings in the following table. This includes, where appropriate, certain speaking engagements.

Date of Meeting	*Outside Interest Group or Body Met*
Thursday 15th February 2007	Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK
Thursday 15th February 2007	Hindu Council UK
Tuesday 20th February 2007	Hansard Society
Wednesday 21st February 2007	New Local Government Network
Thursday 22nd February 2007	Public and Commercial Services Union
Thursday 8th March 2007	Trade Union General Secretaries
Thursday 15th March 2007	Patriotic Union of Kurdistan
Thursday 22nd March 2007	Muslim Council of Britain
Friday 23rd March 2007	Electronic Data System Ltd.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with English Heritage on the creation of regional depositories of archaeological archives and material from excavations. [132576]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not had any discussions with English Heritage on the creation of regional repositories of archaeological archives and material from excavations, although officials have had some discussion. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council is the Government's lead advisory body on archives policy.

BBC: Public Appointments

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether Sir Michael Lyons' application for the post of chairman of the BBC Trust was received by the closing date of 31 January. [132971]

Tessa Jowell: I can confirm that Sir Michael Lyons's application for the post of chairman of the BBC Trust was received by the closing date of 31 January.

Departments: Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on hospitality by her Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133267]

Mr. Lammy: The Department's accounts for 2006-07 have not yet been finalised or audited. However, our records show that the Department spent £64,990 on hospitality in 2006-07 as follows:

	£
Official functions	6,188
Hospitality—general	57,101
Hospitality—committees	961
Hospitality—speakers	739

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress her Department is making with the sale of the Tote; and what the timetable is for the sale. [132560]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 19 April 2007]*: The Government have received and are currently considering an offer for the Tote from a consortium of racing interests and from the staff and management of the Tote itself.

Museums and Galleries: Government Assistance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much museums received in Government funding in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough in each of the last five years. [132139]

Mr. Lammy: The Department funds 22 sponsored museums and galleries in England:

Grant in aid for DCMS sponsored museums

	£ million
2002-03	268.35
2003-04	279.90
2004-05	284.85
2005-06	296.87
2006-07	320.14

The Department, through the renaissance in the regions programme, allocates funding to museums and galleries in each English region:

Grant in aid allocations

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*£ million 2006-07*
East Midlands	0.33	0.61	1.00	1.24	1.89
East of England	1.04	0.81	1.76	1.57	1.98
London	1.32	0.89	2.11	1.80	2.51
North West	0.97	0.89	1.71	1.86	2.54
South East	1.32	1.16	2.13	2.08	2.88

Grant in aid allocations

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ million 2006-07
Yorkshire	0.98	0.84	1.33	1.58	2.02
North East	1.00	1.37	2.97	3.65	4.02
South West	0.88	2.04	3.91	5.54	5.81
West Midlands	0.94	1.97	4.21	5.77	6.10

Notes

1. Renaissance in the regions funding that cannot be directly attributed to a region is excluded from the table.
2. Certain funding allocations included in the table relate to two-year, or three-year periods.

Information on funding of museums within each London borough is not held centrally.

National Lottery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what proportion of Lottery money was spent in the areas of *(a)* health and *(b)* education in each of the last five years; [132554]

(2) what proportion of Lottery money she expects to be spent in the areas of *(a)* health and *(b)* education in each of the next two years. [132555]

Mr. Caborn: The health, education, environment and charitable purposes good cause is a broad one. Big lottery fund programmes and grants often cover two or more of these areas and we do not plan or report on the amount spent on each one separately.

The amounts raised by the national lottery for distribution by the big lottery fund and its predecessors in each of the last five completed financial years, and the amounts that may be raised in each of the next two years according to Department's current projections, are given in the following table. The figures include both income generated by the Lottery operator, Camelot, and income from investment of the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) balance. Subject to the approval of Parliament, funds will be transferred from the NLDF to the Olympic lottery distribution fund after January 2009 and this will reduce the amount available for distribution for this cause.

£ million[1]

	Community fund	New opportunities fund	Big lottery fund	Totals
2002-03	250	418	—	668
2003-04	224	458	—	682
2004-05	234	483	—	717
2005-06	238	476	—	714
2006-07	139	283	209	631
2007-08[2]	—	—	665	665
2008-09[2]	—	—	660	660

[1] Rounded to nearest £1 million
[2] Projected

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has held to consider links between Liverpool Capital of Culture and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [133521]

Mr. Lammy: Officials from this Department are engaged in ongoing discussions with both the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and the Liverpool Culture Company to consider links between Liverpool Capital of Culture and the 2012 Games.

Parks Fund

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made by the National Lottery Heritage Fund team in assessing the Parks Fund application submitted by the hon. Member for Castle Point; and when she expects a decision will be made. [132558]

Mr. Lammy: The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has received no formal application from the hon. Member for Castle Point. A pre-application form was submitted on 7 June 2006 after an initial meeting with the HLFs' regional manager for the east of England.

On 14 June 2006, HLF wrote advising that it would discuss possibilities for park development with the potential applicants.

Two subsequent meetings took place: on 5 October 2006 with the hon. Member for Castle Point, the chief executive of Castle Point borough council, HLF's regional committee chair and the regional manager, and on 4 December 2006 between HLF's development team and council officials, where the possible application was discussed.

To date no application has been received by HLF.

WALES

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the meetings between Ministers from his Department and outside interest groups which took place between 1 January and 31 March 2007. [132434]

Mr. Hain: Ministers at the Wales Office met with the following non-governmental organisations between 1 January and 31 March:

Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research
Post Office Counters Ltd. Wales
National Federation of Postmasters
National Grid
National Audit Office
General Dynamics

Severn Tidal Power Group
First Great Western
Milford Haven Port Authority
Narberth Museum
The Motor Sports Association
Institute of Chartered Accountants
Visteon Corporation
Local Government Network
University of Wales Swansea
Dragon Feeds
National Botanical Gardens of Wales
National Autistic Society
Swansea Waterfront Museum
Friends of the Earth

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 201W, on Armed Forces: deployment, if he will place a copy of the review documents in the Library. [131724]

Mr. Ingram: In my answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 201W, I explained that the examination of administrative procedures for the collection and dissemination of data, and the improvements made to this, did not take the form of a formal review. As such there are no review documents available to be placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Life Insurance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what subsidy his Department provides to assist paying the premium for life insurance for the most dangerous specialist roles in the armed forces. [131082]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The Ministry of Defence's Service Risks Insurance Premiums Refunds (SRIPs) scheme contributes towards the extra life insurance premiums incurred by personnel in certain high risk trades, such as aircrew, and those serving on operations both overseas and within the UK. The compensation available is 90 per cent. of the extra premium up to a total sum assured. The latter is increased every year in line with Service pay and is currently £157,000.

Chemical Weapons: Research

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department retains stocks of chemical weapon agents for prophylactic research purposes. [131200]

Mr. Ingram: Small stocks of toxic chemical agents are held for research, medical and protective purposes not prohibited by the Chemical Weapons Convention. Their storage is declared and subject to regular inspection.

Defence Equipment

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* average and *(b)* total cost to his Department was of each type of (i) personal clothing, (ii) personal role radio, (iii) personal armour and (iv) personal load carrying equipment used by the armed forces as standard issue equipment in each year since 1995; from which company each type of each piece of equipment was purchased in each year; and if he will make a statement. [132160]

Mr. Ingram: Since 1995, there have been significant improvements in each of these areas. We have introduced nearly 40 items of new and improved personal clothing, and we have developed a range of new body armour for troops on operations, which has transformed the level of protection available to our personnel.

The specific information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I am however able to provide the following details:

The approximate cost of a set of temperate combat clothing is £760 and the approximate cost of a set of desert operations combat clothing is £2,200. The majority of the items within this clothing range are supplied under a prime contract with Cooneen Watts and Stone Ltd.

The approximate cost of body (personal) armour is £1,000 for a set of Osprey, £750 for Kestrel and £250 for Enhanced Combat Body Armour. The majority of the body armour components are supplied by NP Aerospace Ltd., Aegis Engineering Ltd., Seyntex NV and CQC Ltd.

The approximate cost of a set of personal load carriage equipment is £150, some of which is also supplied by Seyntex NV.

The Personal Role Radios (PRRs) are supplied by Selex Communications. They have provided 57,000 PRRs to the UK armed forces since they came into service in 2001. PRRs cost £363 for a single switch version, and £393 for a double switch version, and since 2001 a total of £22.4 million has been spent on them.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on buying, operating and supporting *(a)* all commercial software products and *(b)* software products produced by Microsoft in each of the last three years. [112599]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Hospitals

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to assist hospitals in Iraq to secure access to adequate equipment and medications. [131979]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

DFID has given most of its assistance to the Iraqi health sector through financial contributions to international organisations that have particular expertise in health. For example, we have provided £70 million to the UN and World Bank trust funds for Iraq. At present, the trust funds are spending over

$120 million to repair hospitals and train staff. There has been progress since 2003, with more than 1,000 health care facilities rehabilitated or equipped, and more than 6,000 health care workers trained.

We have recently contributed £7 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support protection and emergency assistance activities in Iraq. This includes provision of urgently needed medical supplies, such as war wounded kits to hospitals dealing with mass casualties, improving health facilities, including physical rehabilitation and training for staff, restoring and upgrading water and sanitation infrastructure and organising training for health professions and engineers.

Much of our work aims to support the Iraqi Government spend its considerable oil wealth more effectively for the benefit of the Iraqi people. We are building the capacity of central Government institutions to help ensure that finances are well managed and get to provincial authorities who can then buy drugs, fund hospitals and deliver services.

Iraq: Peace-Keeping Operations

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a date has been set for replacing all soft-top Land Rovers with Mastiff vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan. [132096]

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans he has to replace Snatch Land Rovers; what requirements he has specified for any replacement; and what the timescale is for the replacement process; [131981]

(2) what plans he has to replace Snatch Land Rovers; what requirements he has specified for a replacement vehicle; and what the timescale is for the replacement process. [130250]

Des Browne: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave on 29 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 29W, to the hon. Member for Leominster (Bill Wiggin) and to my written ministerial statement on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 74-76WS.

Parachute Regiment: Training

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on provision for Parachute Regiment training jumps to take place in the period up to 2012; and what the basis of the policy is. [129540]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1555W, to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone). Policy on Parachute Regiment training jumps will continue to be based on current practice. Existing parachute training procedures will continue, and will meet our ongoing requirements from within available resources.

In terms of parachute training facilities and future resources I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1944W, to the hon. Member for Leominster (Bill Wiggin).

NORTHERN IRELAND

A12: Belfast

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vehicles were damaged by missiles thrown at vehicles on the A12 Belfast Westlink in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [132239]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI has provided the following information relating to vehicles which were damaged by missiles on the A12 Belfast Westlink.

	2006	*2007*[1]
Criminal damage (vehicle)	101	44
Attacks on buses	5	3
Attacks on emergency services vehicles	4	3
Vehicles damaged by youths causing annoyance[2]	74	16
Vehicles damaged in disturbances (minor)[3]	10	0

[1] 1 January 2007 to 31 March 2007.
[2] This relates to a situation where an initial report of youths having damaged vehicles was made but which was not confirmed, i.e. the person reporting does not stop at the scene and does not make any further contact with police to confirm that damage has been caused. Where confirmation is available, the incident is listed as criminal damage.
[3] The above is similar to reports of vehicles damaged by youths causing annoyance, however it is felt that the incidents involved adult participation.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were treated for alcohol-only misuse in the last 12 months. [133233]

Paul Goggins: This information is not available in the form requested.

However, information relating to alcohol-only misuse is available from the first ever Census of Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services conducted in March 2005 by The Department of Health, Social Services, and Public Safety (DHSSPS). It should be noted that a census represents a 'snap-shot' of a particular point in time and so cannot be used to derive numbers in treatment over the course of a year.

On 1 March 2005 there were 3,074 individuals receiving treatment in Northern Ireland for alcohol-only misuse in both statutory and non-statutory services.

Cancer

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the survival rate for each type of cancer was in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; and what steps he is taking to improve the cancer survival rate. [133126]

Paul Goggins: On 9 November 2006 my Department published a cancer control programme for Northern Ireland. This plan sets out recommendations and actions for the further strengthening of cancer services

and the setting of standards for the delivery of those services. I am confident that this programme of work has the potential to secure further improvements in cancer survival rates in Northern Ireland. In addition, the Northern Ireland Cancer Network has established a number of regional groups which review existing standards and guidelines for the treatment of specific cancers. These groups are currently developing regionally agreed standards of care and these too will contribute strongly to the improvement in cancer survival we all wish to see.

The latest five-year relative survival rates for major cancers are those for patients diagnosed in 1996-99. These are set out in the following table:

Cancer site	Sex	Five-year relative survival	95 per cent. confidence interval
Oesophagus	Male	12.7	(8.9, 17.2)
	Female	13.0	(8.4, 18.6)
Stomach	Male	16.6	(13.3, 20.2)
	Female	16.5	(12.6, 20.9)
Colon	Male	55.8	(51.9, 59.5)
	Female	54.0	(50.5, 57.4)
Rectum	Male	52.2	(47.1, 57.1)
	Female	51.1	(45.3, 56.5)
Lung	Male	9.5	(8.0, 11.0)
	Female	10.2	(8.4, 12.2)
Melanoma	Male	89.5	(82.4, 93.8)
	Female	96.3	(91.7, 98.3)
Breast	Female	81.5	(79.8, 83.1)
Cervix	Female	71.9	(65.9, 77.0)
Uterus	Female	75.1	(69.5, 79.9)
Ovary	Female	45.1	(40.8, 49.3)
Prostate	Male	62.9	(59.4, 66.3)
Kidney	Male	54.7	(47.6, 61.1)
	Female	49.5	(42.3, 56.3)
Bladder	Male	68.3	(62.3, 73.6)
	Female	51.9	(44.2, 59.0)
Brain	Male	12.6	(8.4, 17.8)
	Female	18.9	(12.9, 25.9)
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	Male	49.9	(44.3, 55.1)
	Female	50.9	(45.3, 56.2)
Leukaemia	Male	28.3	(22.2, 34.8)
	Female	31.4	(24.4, 38.6)

Notes:
1. The 95 per cent. confidence interval is the range of values within which there is a 95 per cent. probability of finding the true value for the survival rate.
2. Relative survival is the ratio of the observed survival divided by the survival that the patients would have experienced if they had the same probability of dying as the general population having the same age.
3. Figures supplied by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry.

Children: Day Care

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many child care places there were in each Northern Ireland parliamentary constituency in each of the last six years. [133062]

Paul Goggins: Information on child care places is not collected according to parliamentary constituency in Northern Ireland. The information is, however, available according to the old health and social services trust areas, and is shown in the following table in respect of the number of registered places at 31 March, 2001 to 2006.

	Child care places available at 31 March[1]					
Health and social services trust	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
North and West Belfast	4,022	5,376	6,471	5,189	3,761	3,414
South and East Belfast	8,551	7,275	7,243	7,105	1,831	1,499
Ulster	5,046	4,871	4,926	4,645	3,291	3,324
Down Lisburn	5,535	5,680	5,465	5,129	5,281	5,179
Causeway	2,808	2,892	2,831	3,360	6,736	5,605
Homefirst	8,787	8,689	9,362	9,425	10,086	10,170
Armagh and Dungannon	3,110	2,948	2,311	2,540	4,023	3,563
Craigavon and Banbridge	2,812	2,850	3,097	3,496	4,506	4,435
Newry and Mourne	1,321	1,418	1,504	1,638	2,701	2,518
Foyle	3,366	3,470	3,467	3,469	3,470	3,425
Sperrin Lakeland	2,875	3,086	3,109	3,457	3,457	3,426
Northern Ireland total	48,233	48,555	49,786	49,456	49,143	46,558

[1] The information detailed in this table relates to registered child care places in respect of day nurseries, child minders, play groups, out of school clubs and holiday schemes.

Departments: Billing

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much discount was lost by each department in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years as a result of failure to pay invoices within the stipulated time period. [132280]

Mr. Hanson: Four Northern Ireland Government Departments (Environment, Enterprise Trade and Investment, Regional Development and Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister) and the

Northern Ireland Office have not lost any discount due to late payments in each of the last three years. The remainder do not hold this information and it could be ascertained only at disproportionate costs.

Domestic Rates

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* informal and *(b)* formal capital value reviews have been carried out in each Valuation and Lands district since the introduction of the new domestic rating arrangements in Northern Ireland; and how many of those reviews in each district resulted in the capital value being (i) reduced and (ii) increased. [133064]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is contained in the following table:

Number of informal and formal reviews completed up to 15 April 2007

VLA district	*Reviewed*	*Increased*	*Decreased*	*No change*
Informal review cases completed (pre 31 March 2007)				
Ballymena	1,513	317	669	527
Bangor	840	127	493	220
Belfast	3,548	382	1,777	1,389
Craigavon	1,789	237	911	641
Lisburn	2,868	461	1,515	892
Londonderry	2,668	667	1,076	925
Omagh	1,693	252	728	713
Total	14,919	2,443	7,169	5,307
Formal review cases completed (post 1 April 2007)				
Ballymena	7	0	7	0
Bangor	0	0	0	0
Belfast	4	0	4	0
Craigavon	0	0	0	0
Lisburn	3	0	2	1
Londonderry	0	0	0	0
Omagh	0	0	0	0
Total	14	0	13	1

Gun Sports

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* name and *(b)* contact details are of each registered (i) shooting club and (ii) black powder shooting club in the North Down/Ards area. [133127]

Paul Goggins: There are eight registered shooting clubs with addresses in the North Down and Ards areas, three of which have black powder authorization. I will write to the hon. Lady directly to provide her with the details of these clubs.

Hospitals: Hygiene

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of hand gels by *(a)* members of hospital staff and *(b)* visitors to hospitals in Northern Ireland for the purpose of infection control. [132429]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety has itself made no assessment of the effectiveness, in infection control terms, of the use of hand gels by hospital staff or visitors. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has established an evidence base for the value of the use of hand sanitizers and their role in infection control. WHO recommends the use of "an alcohol-based hand rub for routine hand antisepsis".

Hospital trusts are obliged under the Department's Controls Assurance Standards to ensure there is a managed environment, which minimises the risk of infection to patients, staff and visitors and that there is a hand hygiene policy in place which reflects good practice principles. They are free to choose from a range of infection control measures to bring this about. The Department's action plan for the prevention and control of health care-associated infections published in March 2006 recommended trusts run a high profile hand hygiene/clean care campaign aimed at health care staff, patients, the public, and visitors. £400,000 of funding was provided for that purpose in the financial year 2006-07.

Hostels

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people resident in Housing Executive hostels between April 2006 and the end of March 2007 were in employment, including those who left such accommodation during that period; how much revenue was generated in rent and charges from those residents; and how many of those residents left employment and received full housing benefit. [133318]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not readily available. Employment status has no bearing on the assessment of homelessness or the type of assistance provided.

During the period, the Housing Executive placed 1,202 households in all available temporary accommodation. Of those, 462 were placed in Housing Executive accommodation.

Of the 1,202 households, 1,051 (87 per cent.) received full housing benefit and 151 (13 per cent.) received partial housing benefit. A total of 159 received earned income (of which 97 received full housing benefit).

During the period, a total of £2.2 million was generated in rental and service charges for Housing Executive homeless hostels.

Mentally Ill: Young People

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female persons under 18 years of age who are being detained in Northern Ireland for the purposes of mental health treatment are detained with adults. [133128]

Paul Goggins: The percentage of patients being detained for the purposes of mental health treatment in an adult mental health ward, who are under 18 years of age as at 31 March 2007 is *(a)* 1.5 per cent. for males (four patients) and *(b)* 0 per cent. for female persons.

Notes:

1. Figures are as at 31 March 2007.
2. Figures only include those who had not reached their 18th birthday by 31 March 2007.

Source:

HSS Trusts

Midwives: Downpatrick

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made towards the provision of a community midwifery unit in Downpatrick. [133336]

Paul Goggins: In March 2005 the Eastern Health and Social Services Board identified Down Lisburn Trust as the preferred provider to prepare an Outline Business Case for a Community Midwifery Unit which would be located in Downpatrick.

The Business Case was first submitted in November 2005 and the Department has engaged with both the Board and the former Trust to develop and refine the proposal. Discussions are now continuing with the new South Eastern Trust on a small number of outstanding issues. Once these issues are resolved the Department will be in a position to consider approval of the Business Case.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive: Rents

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much Northern Ireland Housing Executive unpaid rent was recovered in each district in the last 12 months. [132428]

Mr. Hanson: The following table details unpaid rent recovered in each district during 2006-07.

NIHE District Office	*Rent/rates recovered during 2006-07 (£)*
Belfast 1	28,759
Belfast 2	25,884
Belfast 3	16,609
Belfast 5	64,182
Bangor	35,993
Newtownards	37,911
Castlereagh	25,961
Lisburn	62,830
Lisburn 3	11,710
Downpatrick	44,108
Banbridge	45,896
Newry	2,927
Armagh	12,466
Lurgan/Brownlow	15,642
Portadown	30,006
Dungannon	32,804
Fermanagh	21,377
Ballymena	18,739
Antrim	16,201
Newtownabbey 1	18,392
Newtownabbey 2	17,301
Carrick	11,565
Larne	15,003
Ballymoney	15,830
Waterloo Place	16,057
Waterside	20,024
Collon Terrace	41,291
Limavady	7,484
Magherafelt	14,056
Strabane	53,168
Omagh	2,599
Cookstown	29,741

Obesity: Children

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children in each health board area in Northern Ireland were registered as obese in each of the last six years; and what steps he is taking to reduce such figures. [133067]

Paul Goggins: The following table illustrates the prevalence of obesity among Primary One (PI) pupils for the periods covering 1997-98 to 2005-06.

Percentage of P1 children who are obese

Northern Ireland—male and female	*1997-98*	*1999-2000*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Northern Board	4.0	4.6	5.7	5.0	5.0	5.0
Southern Board	4.1	5.6	6.1	6.6	5.9	6.0
Eastern Board	3.2	4.0	4.8	5.7	5.1	5.0
Western Board	4.0	5.6	6.1	5.6	6.1	5.5
NI	3.8	4.8	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.2

Notes:

1. This information is extracted from the Child Health System which is maintained by the four NI health boards.
2. Obesity is defined using the International Obesity Task Force (IOTF) Classification of childhood obesity.
3. The data is not based on a sample survey but is based on the total number of P1 pupils fulfilling the valid age criteria who had their height and weight recorded.

Until the recent publication of the NI Health and Social Wellbeing Survey 2005-06 (NIHSWB) the Child Health System data had been the only source of childhood obesity information within NI. Validated figures, which are shown in the following table, are now available from the NIHSWB survey 2005-06

concerning estimates for overweight and obese children in Northern Ireland by health board.

Percentage of NI children who are obese (aged two to 10)—NIHSWB 2005-06

	Percentage
Northern Board	5
Southern Board	15
Eastern Board	9
Western Board	13
NI	10

Note:
Based on International Obesity Task Force approach (IOTF)

The results from the survey vary markedly from the PI study partly because the data is based on low 'base' numbers of participants within each health board . It should be also noted that the differences between the boards are not statistically significant and that because these figures have been obtained from a sample survey, that they are estimates and are subject to some degree of sampling error.

At a regional level the report of the Fit Futures taskforce on tackling obesity in children and young people was published in March 2006. The report included over 70 recommendations designed to deliver the Public Service Agreement target to stop the increase in levels of obesity in children by 2010. Responsibility for this target is shared by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Department of Education and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

A Governmental response to the report including a cross-departmental implementation plan has been developed and issued for consultation. Following this a final plan will be issued shortly.

Locally the four Health and Social Services Boards have been asked to develop local integrated plans to tackle the issue of childhood obesity. These plans should address specific priorities set out in the original Fit Futures report, including enhanced training for front line staff, additional support for children in care, training to improve cooking skills in low income families, and initiatives to tackle specific health and social inequities.

Pension Credit

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of pensioners in Northern Ireland *(a)* are eligible for pension tax credit and *(b)* are in receipt of pension tax credit; what steps are being taken to increase the take-up rate of pension tax credit in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [133109]

Mr. Hanson: It is not possible to provide estimates of pensioners in Northern Ireland who are eligible for pension credit.

The number of older people in receipt of pension credit in Northern Ireland is 116,500.

Benefit uptake

The Social Security Agency (SSA) promotes the range of benefits for pensioners through pension tele-centres in Belfast and Londonderry, the internet, and information which is available in our Jobs and Benefit Offices/Social Security offices. The agency also has a network of outreach officers who provide a home visiting service.

Benefit uptake is a key priority for the Social Security Agency which places an emphasis on vulnerable customers, particularly pensioners. Since 2005 the agency has undertaken a range of activities to increase benefit uptake including improvements to linkages between state pension and pension credit and a one-off housing benefit exercise to support those in receipt of pension credit to take-up their potential entitlement to this additional benefit (23,743 customers).

Interim results from this year's benefit uptake programme indicates that an additional £2.3 million in benefit has been paid to pensioners; of this, £0.75 million was specific to pension credit.

Approximately 20,000 pensioners have also been offered a free comprehensive assessment by the independent advice sector to ensure that they are receiving their full entitlement to all benefits.

The agency is currently developing its 2007-08 benefit uptake programme with the intention of targeting vulnerable customers, including pensioners, to ensure they are receiving their full entitlement to benefits.

Raymond McCord Jr

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the progress made in responding to the Police Ombudsman's report into the murder of Raymond McCord Junior. [133045]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable and the Historical Enquiries Team are making good progress in relation to implementing the recommendations of the Police Ombudsman's report into the murder of Raymond McCord Junior. The Northern Ireland Policing Board, which has responsibility for reviewing the PSNI response to the recommendations, has also been informed of this early progress.

Travelling People

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* authorised and *(b)* unauthorised Traveller accommodation sites there were in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [133065]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Authorised Traveller accommodation sites:

The information is not available in the format requested. The Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 transferred the responsibility for the provision and management of Traveller sites from councils to the Housing Executive from 1 December 2003. The Housing Executive currently has ownership of a total of six serviced sites, a further two transit sites and two emergency sites in Northern Ireland. In addition arrangements for Housing Executive to provide services to Travellers on co-operated sites have also been agreed.

(b) Unauthorised Traveller accommodation sites:

The information is not available for the period requested. The Unauthorised Encampments Order 2005 was enacted 19 July 2006. Since then there have been 31 reports of unauthorised encampments in Northern Ireland.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate he has made of the size of the Traveller population in Northern Ireland. [133123]

Mr. Hanson: The Travellers Needs Assessment survey completed in August 2002 identified 452 Traveller households. Of these 316 households responded to the survey, identifying a total of 1,228 individuals.

In the NI census 2001, 1,650 individuals identified themselves as Travellers—representing 0.1 per cent. of the total population. A further needs assessment is programmed to be carried out in October/November 2007.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare: Legislation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures he has put in place to inform the public of the changes involved in animal welfare legislation. [132593]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Animal Welfare Act was launched on 4 April at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal's (RSPCA) Harmsworth Memorial Animal Hospital, where the BBC series 'Animal Hospital' is filmed.

Further media interviews were given by Ministers and regional radio interviews were undertaken by veterinarian Dr. Scott Miller on behalf of DEFRA on the morning of the launch.

The Department's publicity campaign included posters and leaflets. Posters were sent to pet shops and veterinary surgeries. Advertisements were also placed in a number of magazines in the run-up to the launch. All activity signposted the public to the DEFRA website which contains comprehensive information on the Act. Our external campaign partners, which include Nestle Purina and Masterfoods, provided links to the DEFRA website on their consumer websites. In addition, there were a series of training events on the Act, held around the country. These were attended by officials from local authorities, Animal Health and the RSPCA.

Avian Influenza

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Food Standards Agency on the decision not to proceed with legal proceedings against Bernard Matthews in relation to the outbreak of H5N1 at the Holton Plant; what was discussed; and if he will make a statement. [132527]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA has regular discussions with the Food Standards Agency on a range of issues. However, the decision whether or not to prosecute Bernard Matthews was solely a matter for the FSA to investigate and its legal services to advise on. The FSA has carefully scrutinised and considered the evidence in this case and concluded there is insufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction.

Beaches: Standards

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what monitoring his Department carries out to ensure that coastal bathing waters are clean. [132115]

Ian Pearson: Monitoring of coastal bathing waters is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the 1976 European Bathing Water Directive. The parameters to be monitored are listed in the annex of the directive, which can be found on the DEFRA website.

In 2006, a record 99.6 per cent. of coastal bathing waters in the UK met the mandatory standard.

Birds

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on the migrating British bird population of the hunting and shooting policies of EU member states. [131854]

Barry Gardiner: There have been no recent assessments of the effects of hunting and shooting policies in EU member states on populations of migratory birds in Britain. Outside of Britain, assigning bird mortality to different causes is not currently possible because of a lack of data.

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of recent trends in bird populations in the UK. [132114]

Barry Gardiner: Following an increase in the 1990s, the overall indicator of 113 breeding bird populations in the United Kingdom is nearly 10 per cent. higher than it was in 1970.

Populations of UK farmland birds are about 60 per cent. of their 1970 level but have remained fairly stable since the early 1990s. The farmland bird index for England, which is used to measure progress against DEFRA's Public Service Agreement target, gives a similar picture, suggesting that the decline in farmland bird populations has now been halted but not reversed.

Birds: Conservation

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with other EU states on their policies affecting the population of migrating birds; [131852]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on negotiations with EU member states on policies which affect the migration of birds across Europe. [131853]

Barry Gardiner: Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds ("the Birds Directive") provides a common framework for the conservation of naturally occurring species of wild birds and their habitats throughout the European Union.

Discussions on policies which affect the populations of migratory birds across Europe are usually held with other European member states at ORNIS Committee meetings (the Committee for the adaptation to technical and scientific progress of the Birds Directive). The ORNIS Committee consists of officials from each European member state. My Department is the lead for the UK Government for matters pertaining to the Birds Directive and it carries out a wide range of discussions with other Government Departments and devolved Administrations on relevant issues.

The European Commission, in cooperation with member states, has produced a number of Community Management Plans for huntable species considered to have an unfavourable conservation status. The plans typically aim to address the most urgent issues to halt the decline of populations in the EU. The goal of the plans is to restore species back to favourable conservation status. It is the responsibility of the relevant authorities in each member state to put into effect the activities listed in the plan.

Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of carbon dioxide emissions were attributable to *(a)* electricity generation, *(b)* domestic aviation, *(c)* international aviation and *(d)* road transport in (i) 1990, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006. [131074]

Ian Pearson: The percentage contributions of electricity generation, domestic aviation, and road transport to UK carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions in 1990 and 2005 (the latest year for which figures are available) are shown in the following table. Under internationally agreed rules for reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, emissions from international aviation are recorded as memorandum items in the national greenhouse gas inventories, but are not included in the national totals.

CO_2 emissions as a percentage of UK total

	Public electricity and heat production	*Domestic aviation*	*Road transport*
1990	34.5	0.2	18.5
2005	31.1	0.4	21.6

If international aviation were included in the total UK emissions, CO_2 from this source would contribute 2.6 per cent. in 1990 and 5.9 per cent. in 2005.

Common Fisheries Policy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans he has to raise the issue of *(a)* the treatment of the UK under the Common Fisheries Policy and *(b)* compliance with fishing quotas by other nations at the next Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting; and if he will make a statement; [133018]

(2) what information he has received from the European Commission on *(a)* levels of over-fishing of bluefin tuna by French vessels and *(b)* the penalties imposed on France by the European Commission in respect of such over-fishing; and if he will make a statement. [133463]

Mr. Bradshaw: We understand that the level of bluefin tuna over-fishing declared by France in 2005 was 2,572 tons (an over-fish of 38 per cent.). Figures for 2006 catches have yet to be finalised, however current data shows over-fishing of 1,836 tons (27 per cent.). At present, no penalties have been proposed by the Commission.

The Government share the concerns that the hon. Member is raising. It would be inconsistent for the European Commission to apply the rules on payback to the UK for its declared over-fishing of mackerel and herring, but not to do so on the over-fishing of bluefin tuna declared by France.

I raised this issue at the Agricultural and Fisheries Council on 18 April. It will be raised again at the next Fisheries Council Meeting in May. I have also written to the Fisheries Commissioner explaining my dissatisfaction with the approach being taken. We await a response from the Commission.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on UK fishing rights; and if he will make a statement. [133019]

Mr. Bradshaw: The European Commission published a paper in February 2007 looking at how member states allocate and manage access and rights to fishery resources. An Explanatory Memorandum on this topic has been considered by the European Scrutiny committee, and the UK Government will be taking an active role in this discussion as it progresses.

The issues addressed are already being considered as part of the UK's Quota Management Change Programme. Public consultation on this topic is planned for later in the year. Further discussions on the European Commission's paper will also be informed by the findings of the Programme.

Darwin Initiative: Latin America

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of projects funded by the Darwin Initiative Fund in Latin America. [132431]

Barry Gardiner: Since the launch of the Darwin Initiative in 1992, around 100 projects have been funded in Latin America. All of these projects were required to submit an annual report for each year of the project, and a final report upon completion. These reports are all assessed by independent expert reviewers to ensure that the projects are (and have been) effective in implementing what they set out to do.

We have also conducted five Mid-Term Reviews in Latin America. These involve an expert reviewer visiting projects to carry out an in-depth review. The review process serves to highlight areas where the projects could improve, as well as examples of good practice that could be used to help other current and future Darwin Initiative projects.

In December 2005, we conducted an evaluation of four closed Darwin Initiative projects in Peru. The

report confirmed that the overall legacy and sustainability impacts from all the projects could be clearly demonstrated.

In December 2006, we conducted an evaluation of five closed Darwin Initiative projects in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. This review showed that all the projects met their original objectives and achieved positive outcomes and impacts. In particular success was achieved in three key areas; investing in people, mutual learning and technology transfer, networking and long-term relationship development.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the creation of a Department of Energy and the Environment; and if he will make a statement. [132109]

Ian Pearson: None.

Fish

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the estimated stocks of sea bass in British coastal waters were in each of the last 10 years; [132263]

(2) what measures are in place to preserve sea bass stocks; what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the monitoring of those measures; and if he will make a statement. [132264]

Mr. Bradshaw: Estimates of stocks of sea bass in each of the last 10 years are not available. However, scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea suggests that the bass stock appears to be fished sustainably. A recent study assessing bass stocks in British coastal waters by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science suggests that the biomass of the adult population has approximately doubled between 1995 and 2004. This is supported by catches in the UK fishery, which have increased from 1,234 to 2,211 tonnes over the same period.

Current European Union legislation protects sea bass by specifying a minimum landing size (MLS) of 36 centimetres (cm). Below this size, bass cannot be landed and corresponding mesh sizes must be used for both fixed and trawl gear when bass is targeted. Some Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) have introduced a higher MLS of 37.5 cm which applies within the relevant district. The UK has also designated 37 specified areas in which bass fishing from a boat is prohibited. DEFRA is also currently considering the introduction in England of an increased MLS of 40 cm.

The Marine and Fisheries Agency, SFCs and, in some estuaries, the Environment Agency enforce EU and national regulations on bass. Clear infringements of the regulations are taken very seriously and prosecuted under law. All inspections are recorded and offences logged, and this information is used in prioritising future inspections.

Flood Control

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on *(a)* hard engineering flood defences and *(b)* soft engineering flood defences as a percentage of total flood defence spending in each of the last 10 years. [132320]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency does not differentiate between soft and hard engineering in assessing expenditure. The agency uses the most appropriate environmentally acceptable, financially viable and technically feasible solutions based on the conditions at the specific location.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of soft engineering methods for flood management; and if he will make a statement. [132321]

Ian Pearson: The Government encourage the flood risk management operating authorities, primarily the Environment Agency (EA), to consider various options when considering solutions to flood risk and to work with natural processes wherever possible. The optimum solution for a particular location will depend on the individual circumstances, for example, the use of beaches to absorb wave energy is a widely used "soft" technique.

DEFRA is participating in a pan-European research programme under which seven international consortia of researchers are investigating the effectiveness of various non-structural approaches to flood risk as part of the CRUE Eranet research co-ordination programme. These projects will report in 2008.

The EA has carried out a great deal of work on the effectiveness of soft engineering methods, especially on the key issue of sustainability. Beaches are dynamic and will respond naturally to changing conditions, including sea level rise, whereas a "hard" sea wall is a rigid structure which can often accelerate problems including erosion over a period of time. In addition to their sea defence function, soft engineering solutions will also often provide amenity, landscape and nature conservation benefits.

Furs: Domestic Animals

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what progress the Government have made in tackling the trade in fur from domestic animals since 1997; [132912]

(2) what further steps the Government are considering in tackling the trade in fur from domestic animals. [132913]

Mr. Bradshaw: Farming any animal solely or primarily for its fur was banned in England and Wales by the Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act 2000. There are no longer any registered fur farmers operating in the UK.

Additionally, in response to public concerns about the trade in cat and dog fur, the European Commission (EC) has proposed a new regulation to ban trade in

these products. There have been working group meetings to discuss the EC's proposal, which Germany has chaired as current EU presidency.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Potatoes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he make it his policy to suspend the proposed trials of genetically modified potatoes; [131076]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with his Dutch counterpart on trials of genetically modified potatoes. [131077]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA has clarified the background to this decision with the Dutch authorities. In the light of this, and our own analysis, we are clear that the Dutch court ruling does not have direct bearing on the decision we have already made to approve a GM potato trial in Cambridgeshire. We are also confident that it does not have a bearing on the decision we are due to take on a proposed trial site in east Yorkshire as part of the same research programme. We are confident that appropriate risk assessment procedures are being followed in relation to the trials in England, consistent with the specific requirements of our legislation.

Gyrodactylus Salaris

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress of *(a)* "Estimating transmission parameters of Gyrodactylus: a key requirement for contingency planning" and *(b)* Development of a risk evaluation system for the establishment of Gyrodactylus salaris in English and Welsh river systems research projects. [128907]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA is funding work on *(a)* and *(b)* through projects already under way at the University of Stirling and through work being carried out by scientists at the Cefas Laboratory in Weymouth. Good progress is being made on both projects. Work to construct a database characterising river sites throughout England and Wales (carried out in close co-operation with the Environment Agency) is well advanced. To date, information has been compiled on fish populations from over 8,000 sites, data on water quality from 120,000 sites and data on gyrodactylids from 350 sites. The next phase, beginning shortly, will be to develop a risk evaluation system for the establishment of Gyrodactylus salaris (Gs) based on data of high risk sites including sites with the potential to spread disease to wild populations.

Research into Gs on these specific matters and related projects is being co-ordinated with scientists in other departments and the devolved Administrations.

Land Drainage: Churches

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he is able to intervene to assist churches facing increased charges for surface water drainage; [132254]

(2) if he will discuss with Ofwat the impact of Northumbria Water's decision to install water meters in some churches. [132255]

Ian Pearson: In 2003, Ofwat carried out a review of Surface Water Drainage charges for non-household customers. This recommended a move from charging based on rateable values towards a site-area method. Ofwat considers that charging by site-area is the fairest method: it ensures that individual customers pay for the load which they impose on the drainage system.

Every year each water company proposes a charging scheme which Ofwat must approve. Non-household customers should pay for their water on the basis of the company's charges scheme, or on the basis of a specific agreement between the customer and the company.

My right hon. friend the Secretary of State issued guidance in 2000 on matters that Ofwat must have regard to when exercising its power to approve charges schemes. This explains that it is inappropriate to charge all non-household customers as if they were businesses. If premises such as churches are charged on the same basis as the other non-household users, they can face disproportionately high costs. Such premises should be able to benefit from tariffs which reflect their relatively small demand on the water system.

Litter

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to improve the performance of local authorities in removing litter from rural roads. [131230]

Mr. Bradshaw: Local authorities (LAs) have a duty to clear litter from public streets and other highways, including rural roads, and also have a range of enforcement powers to ensure areas remain clean. DEFRA is already taking steps to ensure that LAs comply with this duty and make full and effective use of their amended powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

DEFRA produced guidance for LAs covering the legislation on litter and refuse to coincide with the commencement of measures in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. This was distributed to all LAs and is available from DEFRA's website. It is complemented by a 'Knowledge Bank' on litter, developed in partnership with Environmental Campaigns (ENCAMS), which offers further practical information for LAs as well as case studies on litter management.

DEFRA also published a revised code of practice on litter and refuse in April 2006. This provides statutory, practical guidance on the litter duty, and the standards that must be met by bodies responsible for discharging that duty. The code places an emphasis on the consistent and appropriate management of land to keep it clear of litter. It also sets recovery times for restoring local environmental standards for litter, refuse and detritus as a last resort, should they fall to an unacceptable level.

In addition, all LAs submit data on the cleanliness of their areas to central Government on an annual basis through Best Value Performance Indicator 199a. Members of the public can also use an interactive website www.bvpi.gov.uk to check the performance of any authority. Data are also collected through the Local Environmental Quality Survey of England run by ENCAMS. Collection of data allows Government to monitor performance and offer additional support and guidance to LAs where it is needed.

Packaging

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the targets set by supermarkets and food producers under the Courtauld Commitment have been met. [131732]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: 13 major retailers (representing 92 per cent. of the UK grocery sector) signed up to the Courtauld Commitment in 2005. They agreed to work with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to design out packaging waste growth by 2008, deliver absolute reductions in packaging waste by 2010 and identify ways to tackle the problem of food waste.

Three major brands also signed the Commitment at the 'One Year On' event I chaired in November last year. At that event, WRAP reported that a great deal of preparatory progress had been made since the voluntary agreement was signed. However, more still needed to be done in order to achieve the required reductions in packaging.

Each signatory to the Commitment has been developing its own programme of work with WRAP to reduce packaging and packaging waste. A number of retailers have now made announcements setting their own specific performance targets on waste and other environmental issues.

WRAP is currently collating up-to-date information on achievements arising from the Commitment against its current business plan targets. These results will be included in WRAP's 2006-07 achievements report due later this year.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the report on handling waste from the decommissioning of nuclear establishments; and what the reasons are for the delay in its publication. [132806]

Ian Pearson: On 25 October 2006, the Secretary of State for DEFRA announced the Government response to the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management's (CoRWM) recommendations on the best options for the long-term management of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste. The announcement accepted CoRWM's recommendation on geological disposal and its recommendations for safe and secure interim storage.

The UK Government and devolved Administrations are now working to prepare a public consultation document on the Government's framework for the implementation of geological disposal. Our aim is to publish this in the summer, and it will include proposals for a voluntarist/partnership approach to site selection, and an outline geological disposal delivery programme.

The UK policy for managing solid low-level radioactive waste (LLW) was announced on 26 March 2007. The new policy puts providing public safety at the forefront of dealing with LLW. It sets out a more flexible and pragmatic approach to its management, stressing the need to minimise the amount of waste created and recognising the need to involve the public in developing and authorising LLW management plans.

Copies of our response to CoRWM and the UK policy for managing LLW can be found in the Libraries of the House.

Ritual Slaughter

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of meat prepared according to shechita that is sold without labelling to this effect; [131315]

(2) if his Department will consider introducing mandatory labelling of all meat prepared according to halal and kosher rules. [131316]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 18 April 2007]*: DEFRA has made no estimation of the proportion of meat prepared according to shechita that is sold without labelling to this effect.

Compulsory labelling of meat would require action at the European level, and this is not an area where the Government expects to see changes in labelling law in the foreseeable future. However, there is nothing to stop such information being provided voluntarily.

State Veterinary Service

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* marketing and *(b)* changes to stationery from the change of name of the State Veterinary Service to Animal Health. [132297]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: The information is as follows.

(a) There is no actual cost of marketing as the change to Animal Health has been aligned with the organisation's new corporate brochure which is produced annually and sent to stakeholders, as well as the production of the corporate plan and business plan which have to be produced annually. These have therefore been produced using the new agency name, and would have been produced anyway.

(b) Estimated stationery costs are: redesign of business cards, compliment slips and letter-headed paper—£1,600. IBM work to design and roll out online versions of fax and letterhead templates to staff, £2,500. These are quotes at the moment. Animal Health is awaiting final bills.

Waste Management: Greater London

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what statutory powers the proposed London Waste and Recycling Forum will have to carry out its strategic waste management functions London-wide. [132982]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Hendon (Mr. Dismore) on 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 314W.

Whales: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many whales *(a)* Norway, *(b)* Iceland and *(c)* Japan have caught since the last meeting of the International Whaling Commission. [131323]

Mr. Bradshaw: For the 2005-06 period, the number of whales taken by species and by country, is shown in the following table. This is based on information reported to the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

2005-06

	Minke	*Sei*	*Bryde's*	*Fin*	*Sperm*
Japan	[1]1,078	[1]100	[1]50	[1]10	[1]5
Norway	639	—	—	—	—
Iceland	[1]39	—	—	—	—

[1] Under Special Permit.

For the 2006-07 period, the following quotas, either under objection to the moratorium or as part of a special ("scientific") permit, have been issued by the countries concerned.

2006-07

	Minke	*Sei*	*Bryde's*	*Fin*	*Sperm*	*Humpback*
Japan	[1]1,155	[1]100	[1]50	[1]10	[1]5	[1]10
Norway	1,052	—	—	—	—	—
Iceland	69	—	—	10	—	—
	[1](39)	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Under Special Permit.

However, for the first time, information on recent catches taken by commercial, aboriginal and scientific permit whaling will be reported in May, at this year's annual meeting of the IWC.

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action he is taking to maintain a majority in the International Whaling Commission in favour of the moratorium on commercial whaling. [132060]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 19 April 2007]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2186W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will prepare and place in the Library a progress report on the aims and timetable contained in the London Afghanistan Compact; and how long she estimates it would take to produce such a report. [132524]

Mr. McCartney: Officials are drafting a note on progress made against the Afghanistan Compact benchmarks. This will be completed by the Whitsun recess. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the UK Government's efforts to reduce the production of heroin in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [133396]

Mr. McCartney: The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime estimates that 70 per cent. of the heroin produced from Afghan opium is now manufactured within Afghanistan itself. The UK is spending £270 million over the next three years to help the Afghan Government tackle all aspects of the heroin trade through their National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS).

The NDCS identifies targeting traffickers at the top end of the trade as the best way to deal with the production and trafficking of opiates. With our assistance, the Afghan authorities have convicted over 350 drug traffickers in the last 18 months. Reports from the United Nations Development Programme show that between March 2005 and March 2006 the authorities seized 70 tonnes of opiates and destroyed 245 laboratories. The UK is also contributing to the Afghan government's efforts to stem the flow of chemicals used in the production of heroin into their country.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of drug cultivation levels in Afghanistan in 2007. [133473]

Mr. McCartney: Afghanistan may be facing another year of high poppy cultivation. The UN Office of Drugs and Crime's Winter Assessment Survey (WAS), released in March, is a snapshot that tries to identify early trends in cultivation. The WAS shows a mixed picture. It suggests that cultivation is down in the north and stable in the centre and west. These are areas where there is better security, governance and development. It also suggests that cultivation is heading up in the south and east, including in Helmand, Kandahar and Nangarhar. In the south, security challenges, insurgent activity and the lack of extension of rule of law continue to present major obstacles to poppy elimination.

Burma: Human Rights

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the treatment of four girls aged between 14 and 16 years in Putao District, Kachin State by members of the Burma Army and the subsequent imprisonment of the girls; what representations she has made to the Burmese Government on this case; and if she will take steps to press the Burmese authorities *(a)* to release the girls, *(b)* to investigate the case and *(c)* to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators. [131129]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answers 16 April 2007]:* We are aware of reports in the Burmese media about the detention of four girls in Putao District and we are concerned about how their complaint has been treated by the authorities. I intend to raise this issue at a senior level with the Burmese authorities to demand a formal investigation into the alleged rapes at the earliest opportunity.

Central African Republic: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of reports that the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity in the Central African Republic (CAR) have signed a peace agreement to disarm and to join the CAR National Army. [132587]

Mr. McCartney: The UK is concerned at the ongoing conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR), which suffers from both internal conflict and from the impact of instability in the region.

We welcome the signing of the peace agreement made on 2 February between President Bozize and various rebel groups, including the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UDFR), operating in the CAR, which provides for an immediate cessation of hostilities. We welcome reports of the potential release of some of the former UDFR leaders from prison and also the planned rehabilitation, disarming and possible integration of former UDFR rebels into the national army. We hope that this will promote the advance of national reconciliation.

Departments: Training

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much her Department spent on language training for its staff in each of the last five years. [132743]

Mr. Hoon: The total cost of language training charged to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) account was:

	£
2002-03	3,101,000
2003-04	5,717,000
2004-05	4,265,000
2005-06	5,564,832

The figures for 2006-07 are not available yet.

The figures include training costs in the UK and overseas for FCO officers and their spouses/officially recognised partners.

The figures given cover pre-posting and developmental external language tuition, language centre expenses, exam fees, students travel and subsistence. The figures are an aggregate of costs paid to the FCO Services' language training division and costs paid direct from the FCO account for language training related expenses.

Diplomatic Service: Broadband

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK embassies and ambassador residences in European countries have access to wireless broadband. [132541]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 19 April 2007]*: Two residences in European countries have officially recognised wireless networks; there are none in embassies or consular offices.

East Timor: Armed Conflict

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of recent conflict in East Timor; and what reports she has received from the UK embassy in Jakarta on the conflict. [132564]

Mr. McCartney: Following deployment of an International Stabilisation Force requested by the Government of East Timor, in response to the unrest in early 2006, the security situation improved and force numbers were reduced. However, renewed outbreaks of violence in February and March saw some fatalities, incidents of looting and attacks on vehicles. We urged all concerned to bring an end to the violence and to resolve the problems within the framework of the constitution and laws of East Timor. The situation has calmed since and the first round of presidential elections on 9 April passed off without any major security incident. We warmly welcome this and have urged that the campaigns for the second round of the presidential elections and the subsequent parliamentary elections should proceed equally peacefully. None the less the security situation in East Timor remains extremely fragile and could deteriorate at short notice. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office therefore continues to advise British nationals against all travel to East Timor at this time.

We remain in close contact with our embassy in Jakarta and with other diplomatic missions in East Timor.

EC Integration

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions Ministers from her Department have met representatives of campaign bodies and think tanks advocating closer EU integration in the last 12 months. [133091]

Mr. Hoon: I and other Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers regularly meet representatives of think tanks and other organisations with a wide spectrum of views on EU issues, both in the UK and while on overseas visits.

Embassies: Manpower

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff were employed in British embassies in each of the last five years. [132744]

Mr. Hoon: The following chart sets out the total number of staff employed by the Government at Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Posts overseas on 1 April for each of the past five years:-

	Number of UK-based staff	*Number of locally engaged staff*
2007	2,807	10,739
2006	2,798	10,063
2005	2,719	10,811
2004	2,673	9,466
2003	[1]2,017	9,062

[1] We introduced a new and more accurate management information system in 2004. The figures for 2003 are less reliable; they are likely to be an underestimate.

In addition there are a small number of staff at some posts who are employed locally and are not paid through the FCO payroll. These numbers are not held centrally.

Ethiopia: Kidnapping

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made on behalf of the Ethiopian citizens who were taken captive against their will alongside staff from the British embassy and who remain in captivity. [132477]

Mr. McCartney: *[holding answer 19 April 2007]:* The Government remain concerned at the continued abduction of the Ethiopian citizens that were taken captive on 2 March. Embassy officials in Addis Ababa, other British and European nationals, that were abducted at the same time, were released on 13 March. Upon their release, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a press statement and called for the release of the Ethiopians. Our ambassador in Addis Ababa also issued a press statement on 27 March calling for their release. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, met with the Ethiopian ambassador on 21 March to discuss the issue and has also raised the issue in the media.

We will continue to make representations in support of the release of the abducted Ethiopians, including with the Eritreans, and will engage with those that might be able to help facilitate their release.

We shall continue to call for the release of the Ethiopians publicly and privately.

European Commission: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many vehicles are owned by the European Commission. [133112]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold the information requested. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

European Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which agencies in the UK are recognised source points for providing information about the European Union. [133079]

Mr. Hoon: A wide range of organisations provide public information about a range of EU issues including central Government Departments, local government, other public bodies, the European Commission, the European Parliament, business groups and non-governmental organisations. The European Commission supports a network of providers, including some 30 Europe Direct Centres in the UK. These operate as drop in centres which provide the public with a range of literature and where staff are available to answer questions on the EU. The related Europe Direct Contact Centre operates a freephone telephone service which is available from anywhere in the EU. The number is 00800 67891011.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution her Department makes to decisions on the information and publicity material produced by the European Union which may be distributed in the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [133092]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) maintains regular dialogue with the European Institutions about their policy and approach towards raising awareness and debate on EU issues. For example, the Government submitted a response to the European Commission consultation on their "White Paper on a European Communications Policy" in 2006. The FCO is also working with the UK Representation of the European Commission and the UK Office of the European Parliament on specific initiatives such as the development of Europe Direct Centres and the "Learning Together" initiative I launched in March to increase partnerships between UK schools and their counterparts in Europe. The FCO has not given any detailed input into information or publicity materials produced by the EU Institutions.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures have been planned to increase the profile of the European Union in the UK, with reference to *(a)* the 2009 European Parliament elections and *(b)* the debate on the European Constitution; and if she will make a statement. [133096]

Mr. Hoon: The Government remain committed to engaging with the UK public to generate greater awareness and a mature debate about EU issues. Our work to raise awareness and debate on the future of Europe and EU dossiers has included ministerial speeches and events, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website europe.gov.uk and a printed "Guide to the European Union" available in English, Welsh and audio formats. In respect of the European Parliament elections scheduled for 2009, the independent Electoral Commission is responsible for promoting public awareness and understanding of arrangements for voting at elections in the UK. Additionally, the Electoral Administration Act 2006 places a duty on local electoral officers to take appropriate steps to promote electoral participation in their area.

Fatah

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have had with Farouk Kaddoumi, General Secretary of Fatah, during his visit to the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [133454]

Mr. McCartney: Ministers and officials have no plans to meet with Head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Political Department and Secretary-General of Fatah, Farouk Kaddoumi, during his visit to the UK.

Iran: Baha'i Sect

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports she has received on the treatment of the Baha'i community in Iran. [133032]

Mr. McCartney: We continue to have concerns about the situation of religious minorities in Iran and treatment of the Baha'i community in particular. We often receive reports of discrimination against Baha'is in Iran from the National Assembly of the Baha'is of the United Kingdom.

Denial of access to higher education has been a long-term problem for Baha'i students, effectively banned from entry to universities because of their religion. Although 178 Baha'i students were admitted to various campuses after the removal of religious identification from the entrance exam papers last autumn, recent reports suggest that at least 70 were subsequently expelled as universities became aware of their religion. We have also received some reports about persecution of Baha'i school children, and are currently trying to find out more information about these serious claims. We will take further action as appropriate.

We continue to raise this issue bilaterally and through the EU, and have pressed the Iranian authorities on many occasions to take seriously their international human rights obligations, uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief as described in article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and address the intimidation and discrimination suffered by Iranian Baha'is. We also take action at the UN and in December 2006 we, along with all EU countries, co-sponsored a resolution on human rights in Iran, which expressed serious concern at

> "the escalation and increased frequency of discrimination and other human rights violations against members of the Baha'i Faith"

Iran: Exports

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the total *(a)* number and *(b)* value of (i) military and (ii) non-military British exports reaching Iran via other foreign states which contravene the existing sanctions against Iran. [132829]

Dr. Howells: No such estimates have been made. Licences are required for direct exports of military and dual-use items from the UK. Licences are also required for any person in the UK, or any UK person overseas, to participate in the supply of military items to Iran from any third country. Licences would not be issued if they contravened sanctions. Likewise, licences for all countries are carefully assessed against the risk of diversion to other countries under undesirable conditions.

Licensing data by destination is published in the Quarterly and Annual Reports on Strategic Export Controls (available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

> http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelertae/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029395474.

The UK has had a national arms embargo in force on Iran since March 1993, and all applications for military items have been refused, except in a very limited number of circumstances that have been announced in the House. The EU will implement UN Security Council Resolution 1747 by imposing a standard arms embargo on Iran. This is scheduled to come into force when the Common Position is adopted today.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her policy is on the provision of assistance from British overseas posts to Iraqi nationals who have left Iraq after threats of violence because of their work as interpreters with the British Army. [132997]

Dr. Howells: All such requests for assistance from Iraqi citizens who served for the Government in Iraq are dealt with on a case by case basis, taking account of their particular circumstances.

Iraq: Weapons

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1957W, on the weapons of mass destruction dossier (1) why she has no plans to publish Mr. John Williams' draft document, extracts from it, or to confirm details of the contents; why the draft document was not made available to the inquiry led by Lord Hutton; and whether her Department retains the document; [131333]

(2) whether the draft of the dossier on weapons of mass destruction produced by the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, Mr. John Scarlett, on 10 September 2002 *(a)* was based upon and *(b)* took into account the draft document produced by Mr. John Williams on 9 September 2002; [131334]

(3) whether reference was made to Iraq's ability to deploy weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes in *(a)* an assessment by the Joint Intelligence Committee prior to 9 September 2002, *(b)* a draft of the dossier by the Joint Intelligence Committee prior to 9 September 2002, *(c)* the draft document produced by Mr. John Williams on 9 September 2002 and *(d)* the draft document produced by Mr. John Scarlett on 10 September 2002; [131335]

(4) who the author was of the executive summary of the dossier on weapons of mass destruction in September 2002; [131336]

(5) who the members were of the dossier on weapons of mass destruction drafting group in September 2002; at which meeting the dossier was signed off on behalf of the group; and which members of the group were present at that meeting. [131337]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answers 16 April 2007]*: Matters relating to the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) dossier were examined in great detail by the inquiry led by Lord Hutton, Lord Butler's "Review of Intelligence on Weapons of Mass Destruction" and the Intelligence and Security Committee's report "Iraqi WMD—Intelligence and Assessments". These inquiries placed into the public domain as much information as it was possible to do without prejudicing national security.

Iraq-Kuwait Conflict: Compensation

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many people in the UK are affected by the UN Compensation Commission's request for part of the

money paid to people detained in Iraq during the First Gulf War to be repaid; [132474]

(2) if she will make representations to the UN regarding people detained in Iraq during the First Gulf War being asked to repay part of the compensation awarded by the UN Compensation Commission to the effect that the overpayment be written off; [132475]

(3) whether she plans to provide support to those people detained in Iraq during the First Gulf War who are unable to repay part of the compensation awarded by the UN Compensation Commission because their financial circumstances preclude it. [132476]

Dr. Howells *[holding answers 19 April 2007]*: The UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) has identified 113 UK claimants who have received compensation overpayment. The Government have been asked to make "best efforts" to contact the claimants concerned and to request repayment of the sums involved.

The Governing Council of the UNCC has asked that "best efforts" be made by all concerned Governments to seek to recover relevant overpayments from affected claimants and for Governments to report back on progress before the next UNCC Governing Council in June.

The UK supported the general consensus in the Governing Council to adopt a "best efforts" approach to the recovery of overpayments.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what factors informed the decisions by the UN Compensation Commission on who *(a)* should and *(b)* should not receive compensation payments following detention during the First Gulf War. [133359]

Dr. Howells: The UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) was established in 1991 by UN Security Council Resolution 687 to process claims and pay compensation for death, injury, losses and damages suffered by individuals, corporations, Governments and international organisations as a direct result of Iraq's unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

There were six categories of claims which were assessed and resolved by panels of Commissioners who were independent experts in fields such as law, accountancy, loss adjustment, insurance and engineering.

The UNCC's claims processing procedures were prescribed by the Security Council and were further elaborated by the Governing Council in a number of its decisions which were implemented by the panels of Commissioners.

The panels submitted their recommendations on claims to the Governing Council for approval.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether double payment of elements of the awards made to people detained in Iraq during the First Gulf War forms the basis for the UN Compensation Commission's request for part of the money to be repaid. [133361]

Dr. Howells: The UN Compensation Commission (UNCC) has conducted a full investigation aimed at identifying duplicate claims and other claims raising overpayment issues. As a result, around 30,000 compensation awards have been formally corrected by the UNCC Governing Council. The total corrections represent around US$80 million. These corrections have arisen for a number of reasons, including some claims which were identified as having being paid twice. Of the total amount of corrections, around US$73.7 million remains to be recovered from claimants.

Following the corrections, governments of claimants in receipt of overpayments, and other submitting entities, have been asked by the UNCC Governing Council to "make best efforts" to seek to recover amounts from their affected claimants. The basis for the amount requested depends on the circumstances of each individual case.

Israel: EU Aid

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial support is being given by the EU to the non-governmental organisation the Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions; what the purpose is of the financial support; what *(a)* representations were received from and *(b)* discussions were held with the Israeli Government prior to giving financial support; and if she will make a statement. [132402]

Mr. McCartney: The European Commission has provided the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions with 472,786 for a two year project which started in 2005. The project aims to act as a means of raising political consciousness in Israel about the peace process by bringing Israelis into direct contact with Palestinians and the Occupation through house rebuilding and other political activities. More details of the project can be found on the European Parliament's website at:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/dv/projectshrisrael_/projectshrisrael_en.pdf.

We are not aware of any representations or discussions between the EU and the Israeli Government regarding this project.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial support *(a)* the UK Government and *(b)* the EU is giving to Bimkom, a non-governmental organisation in Israel; what the purpose is of the financial support; what (i) representations were received from and (ii) discussions were held with the Israeli Government prior to giving financial support; and if she will make a statement. [132403]

Mr. McCartney: In 2005, we agreed to fund Bimkom's study into the effects of the barrier in the West Bank. In 2007, we agreed to grant Bimkom £80,300 in order to provide comprehensive information concerning the planning situation of Palestinian villages and land in area C which would then be used as a basis to prevent house demolitions and press for the development of appropriate plans for these villages with the aim of significantly improving the situation

and living conditions of their residents. Prior to the decision to fund these projects, the Israeli Government did not make any representations regarding Bimkom. However, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs did make representations about the barrier project in February.

According to the European Parliament's project listings, the European Commission is providing €295,799 for a two year project which started in 2006. More details of the project proposal can be found on the European Parliament's website at:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/dv/projectshrisrael_/projectshrisrael_en.pdf.

Kazakhstan: Corruption

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of corruption in Kazakhstan. [132715]

Mr. Hoon: The Kazakh Law "On Fighting Corruption" requires every state executive to submit annual declarations of income received and property owned within and outside the Republic of Kazakhstan. President Nazarbayev, in his 28 February address to the nation, focused on the need to do more. Allegations of systematic corruption in Kazakhstan remain rife and Kazakhstan features as 111th on the 2006 Transparency International index (a slight improvement from 125th three years ago). However, substantive evidence regarding specific examples is rare and it is therefore difficult to make an accurate assessment of the scale of corruption. The Government actively urge Kazakhstan to address these issues. Most recently, we sponsored a meeting, on 18 April, on the role of oil and gas contracts in sustainable development. The UK is also a leading supporter of Kazakhstan's work on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Marc Swanson

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1775W, on Marc Swanson, on what dates her officials in Brazil had contact with the local police; and what information was received on each occasion. [132467]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 19 April 2007]*: Since November 2003 consular officials have been in regular contact with the various Brazilian departments that are involved in the investigation into Mr. Swanson's disappearance. I have asked officials in Consular Directorate in London to write to the hon. Member with a comprehensive chronology of the contacts our staff in Brazil have had with the local Brazilian Police. Copies of the letter will also be placed in the Library of the House.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter of 26 February from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs K. Mirza. [132482]

Mr. McCartney: I apologise for the delay in replying to my right. hon. Friend. A reply will be sent out shortly.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter of 2 February from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Rhoda Chigwedere. [132483]

Mr. McCartney: I apologise for the delay in replying to my right hon. Friend. A reply was sent out on 12 April 2007.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter of 26 February from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. Ghulam Nabi. [132484]

Mr. McCartney: I apologise for the delay in replying to my right hon. Friend. A reply was sent out on 12 April 2007.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter of 1 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ufuoma Marcello. [132485]

Mr. McCartney: I apologise for the delay in replying to my right hon. Friend. A reply was sent out on 13 April 2007.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter of 5 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. A. Zulfiqar. [132487]

Mr. McCartney: I apologise for the delay in replying to my right hon. Friend. A reply was sent out on 12 April 2007.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter of 5 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. Farouq Ahmed. [132489]

Mr. McCartney: I apologise for the delay in replying to my right hon. Friend. A reply was sent out on 12 April 2007.

Mercenaries: Regulation

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department has taken to follow up the 2002 Green Paper entitled Private Military Companies: Options for Regulation. [132939]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 93W.

North Korea: Human Rights

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the United Kingdom has made to the United Nations Human Rights Council on *(a)* political and civil rights, *(b)* freedom of the press and *(c)* food provision in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. [132607]

Mr. McCartney: I raised the UK's ongoing concern at the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in my address to the UN Human Rights Council in March.

At the same meeting, the EU presidency, on behalf of member states, made a statement underlining its concerns about widespread violations of human rights in the DPRK, including the lack of freedom of expression, assembly, association and movement as well as arbitrary detention, extra-judicial and public executions, routine use of torture, forced abortions and infanticide, political prison camps and extreme religious persecution.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials raised the issue of future food security with the UN Special Rapporteur for the DPRK Human Rights during the March session.

North Korea: Nuclear Power

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's compliance with the deadline agreed at the Six Party Talks in Beijing in February to close the Yongbyon nuclear reactor. [132588]

Mr. McCartney: The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) did not shut down and seal the Yongbyon nuclear facility by the agreed deadline of 14 April. The North Koreans made clear that they would not start the process until North Korean accounts with Banco Asia Delta in Macau had been unfrozen and returned; which for technical reasons took longer than expected. South Korean media reports suggest that the DPRK has now begun work to dismantle the Yongbyon reactor, but we have not seen independent confirmation of this. The five other members of the Six Party Talks are working together to ensure that the DPRK complies with the commitments it has entered into.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress her Department has made on negotiations towards a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty; and what the key obstacles are to such negotiations. [132720]

Mr. McCartney: The UK continues to push for the early start of negotiations, without preconditions, on a Fissile Material Cut off Treaty (FMCT) in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). The UK's, and the wider EU's, support for such a Treaty is well known. In the Common Position negotiated in advance of the 2005 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (7768/05), the EU appealed to the CD for the immediate commencement and early conclusion of a non-discriminatory, universally applicable Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The UK welcomes the US initiative made in Geneva in May 2006 to table a draft treaty text and draft mandate for negotiations. We hope that all CD member states are able to accept the very broad mandate proposed and agree to open negotiations towards a treaty without delay.

Progress has been blocked by some nations linking the start of FMCT negotiations to progress on other unrelated CD agenda items.

Nuclear Test Ban

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department has taken to bring the comprehensive test ban treaty into force. [132719]

Dr. Howells: We continue to take every appropriate opportunity at ministerial and official level to encourage states who have not ratified the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty to do so, particularly the 10 remaining annex two countries (those that formally participated in the treaty's negotiation and have nuclear power or research reactors), which must ratify before the treaty can enter into force. We have carried out demarchés, both as part of the EU and bilaterally, and will continue to assist where we can. We have used our overseas missions to assist both the provisional technical secretariat and the executive secretary of the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty organisation in regional outreach work. We have also supported the special representative of the ratifiers of the treaty, ambassador Ramaker, with his programme of visits and will continue to do so.

Occupied Territories

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will assess the legality of *(a)* advertising in the UK real estate built in the Palestinian Occupied Territories in violation of Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and *(b)* the advertisement of new build real estate in Har Homa in the Occupied Territories (i) at the Real Estate Exhibition on 18 March and (ii) in editions of the Jewish Chronicle; and if she will make a statement. [132722]

Dr. Howells: The advertising of such property by private persons in the UK is not unlawful. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Northfield (Richard Burden) on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 39W.

Thailand: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of recent anti-regime protests in Bangkok. [132561]

Mr. McCartney: Various pro-democracy groups have held small demonstrations in Bangkok since the 19 September 2006 coup. All demonstrations have passed off peacefully. More demonstrations are expected to take place over the coming months and we will continue to monitor developments closely.

Uganda

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations her Department has made to the Ugandan Government on the humanitarian and security situation in northern Uganda. [132305]

Mr. McCartney: We regularly discuss the humanitarian and security situation in northern Uganda in our contacts with the Ugandan Government.

Most recently, our high commissioner in Kampala, along with other EU heads of mission, discussed the security situation in northern Uganda with Foreign Minister Kutesa on 11 April. The high commissioner also attended a meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee on 30 March, where the humanitarian situation in the north was discussed.

We are encouraged that the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement was extended on 14 April and that the peace talks are set to resume on 26 April. We call on all parties to remain focused on finding a peaceful solution to this long running conflict.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of reports that the Ugandan Army in Karamoja province have engaged in the extra-judicial killing of children. [132565]

Mr. McCartney: The allegations in the Save the Children report are very serious. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Uganda is also looking into the allegations with the co-operation of the Ugandan Government. Once the OHCHR investigation is completed, we will pursue this issue with the Ugandan Government. Our high commissioner, with other members of the Partners for Democracy and Governance Group in Kampala, is planning to visit the region at the end of April.

We continue, more widely, to raise our concerns with the Ugandan Government about the forced disarmament programme in Karamoja. The high commissioner, with other EU heads of mission, raised this most recently with Foreign Minister Kutesa on 13 April. We continue to press for a peaceful and voluntary disarmament process across the Karamoja region that involves all stakeholders, respects human rights and protects the civilian population.

UN Disarmament Commission

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department has taken to promote the UN Disarmament Commission discussion framework. [132721]

Dr. Howells: The Government are fully committed to the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) discussion framework. We worked hard to ensure that in April 2006 the UNDC completed its first substantive session since 2003 and that consensus agreement was achieved on the Final Report. This included "recommendations for achieving the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons". Discussions at this year's session of the UNDC are currently under way in New York. The UK delegation hopes to build on last year's achievements this year and in 2008, when the UNDC's current three-year cycle will conclude.

United Nations Human Rights Council

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to report to the House the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council. [132602]

Mr. McCartney: At its fourth regular session, 12-30 March, the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) received a report on the situation in Darfur; a consensus Council resolution created a mechanism to work to ensure the implementation of existing UN recommendations on human rights in Darfur. The Council discussed the violent repression of peaceful protestors on 11 March in Zimbabwe. It held interactive dialogues with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and a range of Special Rapporteurs, and adopted resolutions on several issues. All adopted resolutions are available on the Council's website at:

www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/4session/resolutions.htm.

I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Library of the House. Statements made by the UK delegation to the HRC, including my address to the Council on 13 March, are available on the website of the UK Mission to the UN in Geneva at:

www.fco.gov.uk/ukmisgeneva

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) also seeks to inform hon. Members of developments at the HRC through a range of means, including its quarterly human rights newsletter, its annual human rights report, dialogue with the Foreign Affairs Committee, and ad hoc meetings such as the joint All-Party Parliamentary Group/Amnesty/FCO panel discussion of the HRC in Parliament on 21 February this year.

Zambia: Economic Situation

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the economy of Zambia; what the unemployment rate is in that country; and who its major *(a)* African and *(b)* international trading partners are. [132216]

Mr. McCartney: The International Monetary Fund Article IV report of December 2005 recognised that the Zambian economy had achieved sustained robust growth since 2000 after decades of stagnation. Zambia's gross domestic product has increased from 5.2 per cent. in 2005 to an estimated 5.8 per cent. in 2006. The fastest growing sectors are mining, energy,

particularly hydro-electricity generation, construction and tourism. Inflation fell to 8.2 per cent. at the end of 2006, the first time in 30 years that it has been in single figures. Interest rates have consequently fallen.

According to the latest living conditions monitoring survey undertaken by Zambia's Central Statistical Office in 2004, 9 per cent. of those aged 12 and over who are classified as economically active were unemployed. However, this conceals the fact that many of those who are 'employed' are engaged in casual agricultural work, self-employed or unpaid family work.

Within Africa Zambia's major trading partners are South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Internationally Zambia's main trading partners are in Asia (led by Japan and China), followed by Europe (Netherlands and UK) and the USA.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by her Department. [132208]

Angela E. Smith: Within the Department, the staff handbook gives guidance to staff on when it might be appropriate to offer hospitality and the financial limits that apply. The purchase of alcohol for hospitality reasons is expected to be rare and limited to small amounts.

Expenditure within the Department is conducted in accordance with the principles of Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Fire Services: Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average retirement age was of fire fighters in each of the last 15 years. [133388]

Angela E. Smith: Firefighters are employed by Fire and Rescue authorities who are responsible for Human Resource management. Information about retirement ages is not among the data collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Government Office for London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1144-5W, on the Government Office for London, if she will provide a breakdown of the staffing figures by *(a)* department or function and *(b)* Civil Service pay grade. [132501]

Angela E. Smith: The Government Office for London's staffing levels for March 2007, broken down by directorate and civil service pay grade, is as follows[1]:

[1] A comparable, detailed directorate breakdown is not available for previous periods. In April 2006 GOL had 303 staff in post.

Grade	Children and Learners and Worklessness	Regional Director, Secretariat and Corporate Services	Crime and Drugs	UKTI	GLA, Business and Europe	Local Government, NR, Communities and Locality	London Resilience team	Planning, Housing and DCMS	Loan /sec out	Total
G3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
G5	1	1	1		1	4	—	1	—	9
G6	2	—	2		2		1	—	1	8
G7	6	5	5	2	6	20	1	7	—	52
SEO + equiv	6	—	4	2	2	1	1	9	1	26
HEO + equiv	6	16	4	5	13	23	3	6	13	89
EO	4	17	2	2	9	8	5	3	1	51
AO	1	6	1	8	5	5	—	4	1	31
PS	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	26	46	20	19	38	61	11	30	17	268

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to ensure that the 2016 target for making all new homes carbon neutral will be reached. [132286]

Angela E. Smith: The proposals the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government published on 13 December 2006 set out our draft strategy for moving to zero carbon new homes by 2016. The consultation period on these proposals closed on 8 March 2007 and the final policy statement will be published later this year. My hon. Friend the hon. Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) has also established a small task force chaired jointly with Stewart Baseley from the Home Builders Federation to examine and address any barriers to implementation of the zero carbon homes standard.

We expect to publish the final proposals later this year.

Housing: Sales

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many house sales were completed in the UK in 2006. [131800]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 17 April 2007]:* Data for the UK are not held centrally. A provisional estimate for Great Britain is that there were 1.4 million residential property sales in 2006. This is made up of 1.25 million sales in England and Wales as reported by the Land Registry and 150,000 residential property transactions in Scotland according to Registers of Scotland giving a total of 1.4 million for Great Britain.

Listed Buildings: Energy

Mr. Malik: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of increased flexibility in rules governing listed buildings to allow them to become more energy efficient without seriously deviating from the character of the building. [133422]

Angela E. Smith: Ancient monuments and listed buildings are exempt from the Building Regulations energy efficiency requirements if compliance would unacceptably alter their character or appearance and I would not want to change this. However the Department works closely with English Heritage to encourage energy efficiency improvements whenever this is appropriate and contributes to the guidance they publish. Interim guides to compliance, where appropriate, were published in 2002 and updated in 2004 and a further comprehensive guide is, I understand, to be published shortly.

Unitary Councils

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on the extension of unitary authorities to include additional adjoining areas; and if she will make a statement. [132250]

Mr. Woolas: In the White Paper, Strong and Prosperous Communities, we recognise that some councils face challenges by having too tightly drawn boundaries. These may be overcome by cross boundary working, multi area agreements and in some cases a boundary review might be the right option. Our Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, currently before the House, contains provisions for the Boundary Committee to undertake a boundary review at the request of the Secretary of State or a local authority, or on its own initiative.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pathways to Work

13. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the results of the Pathways to Work employment programme. [132674]

Mrs. McGuire: Latest figures show that Pathways has already helped over 26,500 customers move from an incapacity benefit into work.

In Pathways areas, the number of recorded job entries for people with health conditions or disabilities has increased by around two-thirds in the 12 months following roll-out.

Independent evaluation confirms our confidence that our Pathways to Work programme is a success.

Digital TV Job Search Services

14. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on new digital TV job search services. [132675]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As part of the Department's commitment to broadening access to job search services, Jobcentre Plus has been working with "Looking Local" to provide digital TV viewers access to more than 400,000 vacancies advertised by Jobcentres across the country.

This innovative service enables people seeking work to look for a job at a time and a place convenient to them, and is currently being used 250,000 times a month.

European Social Fund

15. **Miss Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the contribution made by the European social fund to projects promoting employment. [132676]

Mrs. McGuire: The European Social Fund supports our policies to extend employment opportunity and develop a skilled work force. It has invested £5 billion in employment and skills provision in Great Britain since 2000.

Departmental Budget Impact

16. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact that the 2007 Budget will have on the work of his Department. [132677]

Mr. Hutton: The Budget contained a range of measures from benefit simplification to substantial changes to the Financial Assistance Scheme which were debated in this House last week.

Child Support Agency

17. **Mr. Ellwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the recent performance of the Child Support Agency. [132678]

Mr. Plaskitt: The performance of the Child Support Agency has been steadily improving under the Operational Improvement Plan. After just the first year of the plan, early results are already showing improvements in key areas.

I am confident the performance figures for the last quarter, due to be published later this week, will continue to demonstrate the ongoing improvements in the Agency's performance.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department expects the Child Support Agency's successor body to be fully operational. [132673]

Mr. Plaskitt: Subject to parliamentary approval, during 2008-09.

Pensioner Statistics

18. **Peter Viggers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total value is of all pensions and benefits available to a married pensioner with no savings living in a council house. [132680]

James Purnell: The total value of benefits available to married pensioners depends on their circumstances, in particular their national insurance records, income and capital.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the likely impact of the provisions of the Budget 2007 on the Financial Assistance Scheme. [132679]

James Purnell: I refer the hon. Member to the oral answer I gave for question number 5 to the hon. Member for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne) today.

Social Security Benefits: Credit

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to improve access to affordable credit for those in receipt of benefit. [132663]

Mr. Plaskitt: DWP is delivering the £36 million Growth Fund, which has increased the capacity of credit unions and community development financial institutions to make affordable loans to financially excluded people, many of whom are in receipt of benefit, and who might otherwise turn to "doorstep lenders", and loan sharks charging exorbitant rates of interest.

Up to 31 March the 100+ credit unions and community development finance institutions delivering the affordable loan service across England, Scotland and Wales had made more than 18,000 loans, with a total value in excess of £7.6 million, to people on low income. Around 80 per cent. of Growth Fund loans are made to people in receipt of working age benefits.

DWP are also delivering the Now Let's Talk Money campaign, which will make people on low incomes aware of the services the Government have made available to them, services such as free face-to-face money advice and affordable credit.

Social Security Benefits: Lie Detectors

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent discussions he has had with disability organisations on the implications of the use of lie detection software for benefit claimants affected by mental health conditions; and if he will make a statement; [132959]

(2) To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the implications of the use of lie detection software for benefit claimants who do not have English as a first language; and if he will make a statement; [132962]

(3) if he will monitor and evaluate the impact on vulnerable benefit claimants of the piloting of lie detection software; and if he will make a statement. [132963]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have had several discussions with disability and other organisations about the plans to test voice risk analysis software as part of wider efforts to improve customer service and reduce fraud. The Department will be considering the impact of this technology on all customers including those who do not have English as a first language and those who are particularly vulnerable.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training will be required of operators of lie detection software in benefit authorities. [132960]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: Voice risk analysis software analyses changes in voice frequency and helps to identify risk. It is not a lie detector. We intend to pilot this software in the London borough of Harrow, and in income support/jobseeker's allowance claims to test whether it can be used to improve customer service and reduce fraud.

The amount of training operators of voice risk analysis require varies according to their existing skills and knowledge. However, four days of training supported by a period of mentoring is typical.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to use evidence from lie detection software *(a)* to initiate investigation into the validity of benefit claims, *(b)* to suspend commencement or payment of benefits and *(c)* to bring charges for benefit fraud; and if he will make a statement. [132961]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: Voice risk analysis software analyses changes in voice frequency and helps to identify risk. It is not a lie detector.

We intend to pilot this software in the London borough of Harrow on housing benefit and council tax benefit claims and in IS/JSA claims, to test whether it can be used to improve customer service and reduce benefit fraud. The technology should help indicate which claims can be processed quickly and which may need additional investigation, but it will not replace existing procedures.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many staff were employed to answer Social Fund hotline calls in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; [124738]

(2) how much was spent on administering the Social Fund hotline in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; [124870]

(3) what the average length of time taken to process an application to the Social Fund via the Social Fund hotline was for the last year for which figures are available; [124871]

(4) what the average length of call was to the Social Fund hotline in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; [124899]

(5) whether calls to the Social Fund hotline are *(a)* recorded and *(b)* monitored; [124903]

(6) how many calls to the Social Fund hotline were *(a)* answered and *(b)* unanswered in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [124959]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 23 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about Social Fund telephony. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus does not have a Social Fund Hotline. To date, 11 Social Fund Delivery Centres have rolled out nationally. We do not hold information on the cost of administering the Social Fund calls within these centres as these costs will form part of the programme to centralise benefit processing by March 2008. Calls to Social Fund lines are not currently recorded or monitored. Each Jobcentre Plus Region undertakes its own applications and different telephone numbers are currently in place. I am unable to give you a figure for the number of staff taking Social Fund calls in the delivery centres as staff numbers fluctuate in response to the demands on the service.

We do not have statistics on the average length of each call, however, the introduction of a telephony based crisis loan application system, where the customer applies directly via dedicated telephone numbers, usually allows a loan application to be made within 20 minutes and performance in this area is improving. It is now taking, on average, 1.5 days to process a crisis loan against a target of 2 days.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Education: Assessments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent representations he has received on improvements to the Eleven Plus system; and if he will make a statement. [132322]

Jim Knight: From time-to-time the Government receive representations both in favour of and against academic selection at eleven plus.

The Government do not support selection by high academic ability and do not wish to see it extended. Where schools require children to sit selective tests it is for admission authorities to decide upon and administer the testing process.

Educational Institutions: Access

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of *(a)* pupil referral units and *(b)* special needs units in each local authority conform to Building Bulletin 98 and Building Bulletin 99 regulations. [132391]

Jim Knight: Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and Special Educational Needs (SEN) units are not required to conform to "Building Bulletin 98: Briefing Framework for Secondary Schools" or "Building Bulletin 99: Briefing Framework for Primary Schools". Special Educational Needs units are, however, recognised in these bulletins as requiring supplementary area to the recommended gross internal floor area for secondary and primary schools. There is separate guidance for Pupil Referral Units and Special Educational Needs units. The Department does not hold the information requested.

Further Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils entered further education after completing GCSEs in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough in each of the last five years. [132138]

Jim Knight: The figures in this answer are for all 16-year-olds, there is no information solely on those that have completed their GCSE qualifications.

(a) The following table gives the number and percentage of 16-year-olds in England participating in full-time education at a sixth-form college, further education college, at school or in a higher education institute. The latest year for which data are available is end 2005.

16-year-olds participating in full-time education by institution type, England 2001-05

	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sixth-form college	61,000	9.6	62,700	9.9	65,300	10.1	69,200	10.4	71,000	10.9
Other further education colleges	166,400	26.3	166,800	26.4	171,700	26.5	183,400	27.6	191,200	29.3
Schools	218,900	34.5	222,800	35.3	227,900	35.2	235,500	35.4	235,300	36.0
Higher education	1,700	0.3	2,000	0.3	1,800	0.3	2,300	0.3	2,300	0.4
Total	447,900	70.7	454,400	71.9	466,600	72.0	490,300	73.8	499,900	76.5

The Department does not hold figures for Wales.

(b) The attached table (b) gives the number and percentage of 16-year-olds in the regions of England participating in full-time education at a sixth-form college, further education college, or school. The latest year for which data are available is end 2004.

(c) The following table (c) gives the number and percentage of 16-year-olds resident in each outer London authority participating in full-time education at a sixth form college, further education college or school. The latest year for which data are available is end 2004.

Participation estimates for inner London LEAs are not given due to the high level of cross-boundary flows of independent school students between LEAs.

(b) Participation in education and training of 16-year-olds by type of institution, by region in England 2000-04

Number

	Full-time education					*Percentage*				
	Maintained schools	*Independent schools*	*Sixth-form college*	*Other FE*	*Total*	*Maintained schools*	*Independent schools*	*Sixth-form college*	*Other FE*	*Total*
End 2004										
North East	8,500	1,400	3,300	10,600	23,800	25	4	10	31	69
North West	19,800	3,700	15,800	27,500	66,800	21	4	17	29	70
Yorkshire and the Humber	18,700	2,300	7,400	18,000	46,500	27	3	11	26	67
East Midlands	18,900	2,900	2,800	15,800	40,400	33	5	5	27	70
West Midlands	19,900	3,600	7,500	21,600	52,600	27	5	10	29	71
East of England	24,700	4,300	6,700	18,200	53,800	34	6	9	25	75
London	31,700	8,000	8,800	23,100	71,600	35	9	10	26	79
South East	31,400	9,800	15,300	26,200	82,700	29	9	14	25	77
South West	20,500	5,100	1,500	22,600	49,800	31	8	2	34	75
End 2003										
North East	8,600	1,200	3,000	10,200	23,000	25	4	9	30	67
North West	18,900	3,800	15,200	26,100	64,000	20	4	16	28	69
Yorkshire and the Humber	18,300	2,300	6,500	17,600	44,700	27	3	10	26	66
East Midlands	18,300	2,800	2,600	14,400	38,200	33	5	5	26	69
West Midlands	19,600	3,600	7,100	20,300	50,600	27	5	10	28	70
East of England	23,300	4,100	6,600	16,800	50,800	34	6	10	24	73
London	30,200	7,600	8,600	22,200	68,600	34	9	10	25	78
South East	31,000	9,400	14,300	24,000	78,600	30	9	14	23	77
South West	19,500	5,300	1,400	21,100	47,300	31	8	2	33	74
End 2002										
North East	8,300	1,300	3,000	10,100	22,700	24	4	9	29	66
North West	18,800	3,800	14,400	26,300	63,300	20	4	16	28	68
Yorkshire and the Humber	17,900	2,400	6,100	17,600	43,900	27	4	9	27	66
East Midlands	17,800	2,800	2,700	14,200	37,500	33	5	5	26	69
West Midlands	19,200	3,600	7,100	19,200	49,200	27	5	10	27	69

(b) Participation in education and training of 16-year-olds by type of institution, by region in England 2000-04

Number

	Full-time education					Percentage				
	Maintained schools	*Independent schools*	*Sixth-form college*	*Other FE*	*Total*	*Maintained schools*	*Independent schools*	*Sixth-form college*	*Other FE*	*Total*
East of England	23,400	4,200	6,300	15,600	49,500	35	6	9	23	74
London	29,300	7,200	8,200	22,100	65,800	33	8	10	26	77
South East	30,200	9,600	13,700	22,300	75,800	30	10	14	22	76
South West	19,100	5,200	1,200	20,400	45,900	31	8	2	33	75
End 2001										
North East	8,400	1,300	2,900	10,400	23,000	29	4	9	30	67
North West	18,600	3,900	14,300	25,600	62,400	20	4	15	28	67
Yorkshire and the Humber	17,900	2,400	6,100	17,500	43,900	27	4	9	27	67
East Midlands	17,400	2,700	2,600	14,200	36,900	32	5	5	26	69
West Midlands	19,100	3,500	7,100	19,100	48,800	27	5	10	27	69
East of England	23,500	4,100	5,900	15,200	48,800	35	6	9	23	72
London	28,200	6,900	7,800	21,900	64,800	33	8	9	25	75
South East	29,700	9,600	13,000	22,800	75,200	29	10	13	23	74
South West	18,700	5,100	1,200	20,400	45,300	31	8	2	33	74
End 2000										
North East	7,900	1,200	3,000	9,600	21,700	24	4	9	29	66
North West	18,200	3,600	13,500	24,600	59,900	20	4	15	28	67
Yorkshire and the Humber	17,100	2,900	5,700	16,800	41,800	27	4	9	27	67
East Midlands	17,200	2,500	2,200	13,000	34,900	33	5	4	25	68
West Midlands	18,100	3,400	6,900	18,400	46,700	27	5	10	27	69
East of England	22,700	4,000	5,700	15,400	47,700	35	6	9	24	73
London	26,100	6,700	7,300	21,000	61,100	32	8	9	26	74
South East	28,700	9,300	11,700	22,200	71,900	30	10	12	23	74
South West	18,200	5,000	1,100	19,400	43,700	31	8	2	33	74

(c) Participation in education and training of 16-year-olds by type of institution, by London local authority, 2000-04

Number

	Full-time education					Percentage				
	Maintained schools	*Independent schools*	*Sixth-form college*	*Other FE*	*Total*	*Maintained schools*	*Independent schools*	*Sixth-form college*	*Other FE*	*Total*
End 2004										
Inner London	7,800	3,700	3,900	8,700	24,100	24	12	12	27	75
Outer London	23,800	4,300	4,900	14,500	47,600	41	7	8	25	82
Barking and Dagenham	900	—	100	500	1,600	43	0	4	25	73
Barnet	1,800	500	300	700	3,300	44	13	7	18	82

(c) Participation in education and training of 16-year-olds by type of institution, by London local authority, 2000-04

Number

	Full-time education					Percentage				
	Maintained schools	*Independent schools*	*Sixth-form college*	*Other FE*	*Total*	*Maintained schools*	*Independent schools*	*Sixth-form college*	*Other FE*	*Total*
Bexley	1,500	100	—	800	2,300	48	2	1	25	76
Brent	1,600	100	200	900	2,800	46	4	5	26	81
Bromley	2,100	300	100	600	3,100	58	8	2	17	84
Croydon	1,200	700	1,000	1,100	3,900	25	15	22	24	85
Ealing	1,500	300	100	1,200	3,100	40	9	2	31	82
Enfield	2,000	—	100	900	3,100	53	1	4	25	83
Greenwich	1,400	200	100	600	2,300	48	5	5	20	78
Harrow	800	500	300	1,300	2,800	23	14	8	38	83
Havering	600	—	900	900	2,400	21	1	29	28	78
Hillingdon	1,600	200	—	800	2,700	49	7	1	24	82
Hounslow	1,300	100	100	700	2,200	46	2	4	27	79
Kingston upon Thames	900	200	100	300	1,500	48	12	7	15	83
Merton	600	200	200	600	1,600	28	10	9	27	75
Redbridge	2,100	100	100	700	3,000	61	3	4	20	88
Richmond upon Thames	200	600	300	600	1,700	11	29	13	33	87
Sutton	1,300	100	100	500	1,900	51	3	3	20	77
Waltham Forest	600	100	900	800	2,400	23	5	31	28	88
End 2003										
Inner London	7,700	3,400	3,800	8,500	23,400	24	11	12	27	74
Outer London	22,600	4,100	4,800	13,600	45,200	40	7	9	24	80
Barking and Dagenham	900	—	100	500	1,500	41	0	5	26	71
Barnet	1,800	400	200	700	3,200	46	11	6	17	79
Bexley	1,400	100	—	700	2,200	48	2	1	25	76
Brent	1,700	100	200	900	2,800	50	3	5	26	84
Bromley	1,900	300	—	500	2,800	52	8	1	15	76
Croydon	1,000	700	900	1,000	3,600	22	15	20	21	78
Ealing	1,700	300	100	1,100	3,100	43	9	2	28	82
Enfield	1,900	—	200	1,000	3,000	51	1	4	27	83
Greenwich	1,200	200	200	600	2,100	41	6	5	21	73
Harrow	700	400	300	1,200	2,600	24	14	9	38	86
Havering	600	—	800	700	2,200	22	1	29	25	78
Hillingdon	1,400	200	—	800	2,400	44	6	1	26	78
Hounslow	1,300	100	100	600	2,000	45	2	4	23	74
Kingston upon Thames	800	200	100	300	1,400	47	13	8	16	83
Merton	600	300	200	600	1,700	26	12	12	29	79
Redbridge	2,000	100	100	600	2,800	61	4	3	19	88
Richmond upon Thames	200	600	200	600	1,600	10	31	13	35	88
Sutton	1,200	100	100	400	1,800	51	4	4	19	78
Waltham Forest	600	100	900	700	2,300	21	5	32	27	84
End 2002										
Inner London	7,000	3,400	3,600	8,900	22,900	23	11	12	30	76
Outer London	21,300	3,800	4,600	13,200	42,900	39	7	8	24	78

(c) Participation in education and training of 16-year-olds by type of institution, by London local authority, 2000-04

Number

	Full-time education					Percentage				
	Maintained schools	Independent schools	Sixth-form college	Other FE	Total	Maintained schools	Independent schools	Sixth-form college	Other FE	Total
Barking and Dagenham	800	—	100	500	1,400	37	0	4	21	63
Barnet	1,900	400	300	600	3,100	48	10	7	16	80
Bexley	1,200	—	—	700	2,000	43	1	1	25	70
Brent	1,700	—	200	900	2,800	50	1	5	27	82
Bromley	1,900	300	—	600	2,800	55	8	1	16	81
Croydon	900	700	1,000	900	3,500	20	16	23	21	80
Ealing	1,500	300	100	1,000	2,900	39	8	1	27	76
Enfield	1,600	—	100	1,000	2,700	47	0	3	28	78
Greenwich	1,100	100	100	600	1,900	39	5	5	22	70
Harrow	700	400	300	1,100	2,500	28	14	11	37	86
Havering	600	—	800	700	2,100	20	0	30	24	73
Hillingdon	1,400	200	—	700	2,300	47	6	1	24	78
Hounslow	1,200	—	100	700	2,000	43	1	3	25	73
Kingston upon Thames	700	200	200	300	1,400	40	12	9	19	81
Merton	500	200	200	600	1,500	25	11	9	29	74
Redbridge	1,800	100	100	600	2,600	58	4	3	19	83
Richmond upon Thames	200	500	200	600	1,500	9	32	10	38	90
Sutton	1,100	100	100	400	1,700	51	4	4	20	79
Waltham Forest	600	100	800	700	2,300	22	5	31	26	83
End 2001										
Inner London	7,200	3,300	3,300	8,600	22,400	24	11	11	28	73
Outer London	20,900	3,700	4,500	13,300	42,400	38	7	8	24	76
Barking and Dagenham	800	—	100	400	1,300	34	0	3	19	56
Barnet	1,700	400	200	700	3,000	43	10	6	18	77
Bexley	1,200	—	—	800	2,000	41	0	1	26	69
Brent	1,600	—	200	1,000	2,700	45	0	5	28	79
Bromley	1,800	300	—	600	2,700	53	8	1	17	78
Croydon	800	600	1,000	900	3,300	19	15	23	20	77
Ealing	1,500	300	100	1,000	2,900	40	7	2	27	76
Enfield	1,800	—	100	900	2,800	49	0	2	25	76
Greenwich	1,000	200	100	600	1,900	37	6	5	21	68
Harrow	700	400	300	1,100	2,500	23	15	10	38	85
Havering	600	—	800	700	2,100	19	0	28	24	71
Hillingdon	1,400	200	—	700	2,300	47	6	0	23	76
Hounslow	1,200	—	100	700	2,000	43	1	3	24	71
Kingston upon Thames	700	200	100	300	1,300	40	12	8	20	80
Merton	500	200	200	600	1,500	24	11	8	28	71
Redbridge	1,800	100	100	600	2,600	56	4	3	18	82
Richmond upon Thames	200	500	200	700	1,500	10	31	11	40	93
Sutton	1,100	100	100	400	1,700	51	3	4	19	77
Waltham Forest	600	100	800	600	2,200	22	5	29	23	79

(c) Participation in education and training of 16-year-olds by type of institution, by London local authority, 2000-04

Number

	Full-time education					*Percentage*				
	Maintained schools	*Independent schools*	*Sixth-form college*	*Other FE*	*Total*	*Maintained schools*	*Independent schools*	*Sixth-form college*	*Other FE*	*Total*
End 2000										
Inner London	6,500	3,100	3,000	8,200	20,800	22	11	10	28	72
Outer London	19,600	3,600	4,300	12,700	40,300	37	7	8	24	76
Barking and Dagenham	800	—	100	400	1,300	37	0	3	21	62
Barnet	1,900	300	200	600	3,100	52	9	6	17	85
Bexley	1,100	—	—	700	1,900	43	0	1	27	71
Brent	1,300	—	200	800	2,300	38	1	5	25	69
Bromley	2,000	200	—	500	2,700	61	7	1	14	83
Croydon	400	900	1,000	800	3,100	9	20	24	19	71
Ealing	1,100	300	100	1,100	2,400	30	7	2	30	69
Enfield	1,700	—	100	900	2,700	51	0	3	26	79
Greenwich	900	100	100	600	1,700	33	4	5	22	64
Harrow	—	400	300	1,100	1,800	1	13	11	40	66
Havering	500	—	800	700	1,900	18	0	27	25	70
Hillingdon	1,400	200	—	700	2,300	50	7	1	23	81
Hounslow	1,500	—	100	700	2,300	56	1	3	25	85
Kingston upon Thames	—	—	—	—	—	•	•	•	•	•
Merton	300	200	200	600	1,300	14	12	10	32	68
Redbridge	—	—	—	—	—	•	•	•	•	•
Richmond upon Thames	—	500	100	600	1,200	1	31	8	38	77
Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	•	•	•	•	•
Waltham Forest	400	100	700	700	1,900	13	4	26	25	69

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average expenditure per pupil was in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary education in (i) each region and (ii) each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [132645]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the House Library.

School Leaving: Employment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in each of the regions who left school in 2006 *(a)* have secured full-time employment, *(b)* have secured part-time employment, *(c)* are on a training scheme and *(d)* are unemployed. [132445]

Jim Knight: The following table gives the number and percentage of 16-year-olds by region, who have finished compulsory education who are (a) in employment, (b) on a Government-supported training scheme, and (c) not settled.

Activity of 16-year-olds, by region, November 2006

	Number			*Percentage*		
	(a) Full-time employment	*(b) Government-supported training*	*(c) Not settled*	*(a) Full-time employment*	*(b) Government-supported training*	*(c) Not settled*
North East	1,630	3,040	3,100	5.4	8.7	10.1
North West	5,620	7,550	7,680	5.2	10.3	10.9
Yorks and the Humber	4,770	4,890	5,740	7.9	5.6	9.2
East Midlands	4,330	3,300	4,320	7.3	7.4	8.7
West Midlands	4,150	4,390	5,360	8.7	4.3	5.4
East of England	5,090	2,640	4,600	6.9	5.6	6.5
London	2,230	2,300	4,920	6.1	4.3	6.7
South East	5,170	3,470	6,350	7.2	4.4	5.5

Activity of 16-year-olds, by region, November 2006

	Number			Percentage		
	(a) Full-time employment	(b) Government-supported training	(c) Not settled	(a) Full-time employment	(b) Government-supported training	(c) Not settled
South West	4,290	3,480	4,070	6.3	7.8	7.7
England	37,290	35,050	46,130	8.6	5.8	6.7

The figures relate to the activity of schools leavers on 1 November 2006, and are for all 16-year-olds resident in that region who have finished compulsory education.

Those in part-time employment and unemployed cannot be separated out. They are in the 'not settled' group which includes: all unemployed, those in part-time employment or training, those who are not available to the labour market, refugees and asylum seekers not yet granted residency and those in custodial sentence.

School Sports Partnerships

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what level of funding will be available to school sport partnerships beyond 2008; [132611]

(2) what advice the Youth Sports Trust will provide to schools about school sport partnerships beyond 2008. [132612]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 April 2007]*: The Department for Education and Skills's Comprehensive Spending Review settlement is currently being reviewed by the Secretary of State.

The ambition is that by 2010, all young people will be offered at least four hours of sport every week. This will comprise at least two hours of PE and sport during the school day and at least an additional two to three hours of sport beyond the school day (delivered by a range of school, community and club providers). The Youth Sport trust will continue to support school sport partnerships—which include every maintained school in England to achieve this.

Schools: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department has taken to improve the performance of schools in the London Borough of Sutton since 1997. [132647]

Jim Knight: Schools in the London borough of Sutton have achieved a substantial rise in standards across all Key Stages since 1997 and performance levels are well above the national average. The proportion of 11-year-olds reaching the target level 4+ as measured by the National Curriculum tests for 2006 has risen by 13 percentage points to 83 per cent. in English and by 13 percentage points to 79 per cent. in mathematics. The proportion of pupils achieving five A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalents has improved by 15.8 percentage points to 70.5 per cent. in 2006. The proportion of pupils achieving five A*-C grades including GCSE English and mathematics has also improved by 15.4 percentage points to 62.7 per cent. in 2006.

Since 1997 four schools only in Sutton have been in special measures and there are currently no schools in an Ofsted category.

The Government's London Challenge programme and the National Strategies have worked with Sutton to improve school performance. In addition to support through the Standards Fund for literacy and numeracy consultants to work directly with schools to improve teaching and learning in the core subjects and targeted National Strategies support for teaching materials and teachers' continuing professional development, Sutton has received:

Direct support for two schools through the Keys to Success programme; providing access to expert advice from a London Challenge Adviser to help prioritise areas for improvement and put together bespoke improvement packages.

Access to an expert adviser for four schools as part of the London Challenge underperformance collaborative to improve borderline students' performance at GCSE.

Inclusion of one school in the English and Maths Challenge initiative to improve standards in English and mathematics in target secondary schools.

Taking part in a London Challenge ICT project to help schools develop their ICT strategies further based on their priorities for school improvement.

Around 1,350 teachers have registered as working towards Chartered London Teacher status in Sutton Schools.

Sutton schools have also benefited from:

KS2-3 transition projects.

Student Pledge—opportunities for London students to gain a variety of rich experiences out of school.

The Training and Development Agency has worked with Sutton to support the roll out of extended schools in their area. Sutton has received £2.2 million over the period 2005-08 to take forward this work which will support pupils achieve their full potential by providing access through schools to services such as study support, parenting support programmes, child care, and links to multi agency support.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what alterations were made to the secondary curriculum programmes of study and level descriptions produced by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) secondary curriculum review between their approval by the QCA board on 14 December 2006 and their publication. [132408]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 April 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 April 2007.

Teachers: Pensions

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many stakeholders were consulted during the formal consultation with

stakeholder representatives on the Teacher's Additional Voluntary Contribution Pension Scheme between November 2005 and February 2006; [131041]

(2) how the stakeholders consulted during the formal consultation on Teacher's Additional Voluntary Contribution Pension Scheme were selected; [131042]

(3) what steps were taken to ensure that stakeholders with a relevant interest were consulted during formal consultations on the Teacher's Additional Voluntary Contribution Pension Scheme; and how many scheme members were consulted; [131043]

(4) what conclusions the Department has drawn from the responses given by members of the Teacher's Additional Voluntary Contribution Pension Scheme to formal consultation on changes to the scheme; [131044]

(5) what estimates he has made of the cost of consulting members of the Teacher's Additional Voluntary Contribution Pension Scheme on the proposed changes to the scheme, broken down by main budget heading; [131045]

(6) what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing the flexibilities permitted by A-Day regulations in relation to the Teacher's Additional Voluntary Contribution Pension Scheme; [131046]

(7) if his Department will undertake further consultations of the membership of the Teacher's Additional Voluntary Contribution Pension Scheme following changes introduced by A-Day regulations. [131047]

Jim Knight: The consultation on amendments to the Teachers' Additional Voluntary Contribution (TAVC) arrangements was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Superannuation Act 1972. Consultees included teacher and lecturer unions, representatives of employer organisations and a wide range of other interested parties, including the managers of other public service pension schemes. The official consultation list contained 86 different organisations at the time of the A-Day changes and the consultation was also placed on the TeacherNet website with an invitation to any individual to respond. From the responses received, the Department concluded that the revised arrangements for the Teachers' Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme are currently appropriate for the teaching/lecturing workforce, although, as a matter of course, any further possible changes that could appropriately be introduced are noted for inclusion in a subsequent set of amending regulations.

No estimate of the cost of any Teachers' Pension Scheme consultation has been made. Nor have our TAVC providers, Prudential, estimated the costs to them of the implementation of A-Day flexibilities, although they will have incurred some administrative costs. Prudential has not sought to recoup any of these costs from members through any change to the annual management charge that is applied to TAVC contracts. The only exception, because of the significant amount of extra work involved, has been to apply an administration fee to cover costs to process transfers-out of accumulated funds independently from the main scheme for those who have had service after A-Day, although this has affected relatively few members.

In addition to the A-Day amending regulations, the Teachers' Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme has recently been further amended as part of a major review of the teachers' pension package. Both sets of regulations were subject to wide consultation and received overwhelming support from those who responded. All mandatory changes to the IPS required by A-Day legislation have been implemented and there are no plans to undertake another specific A-Day consultation. However a regulatory consolidation exercise is under way which will result in a further consultation taking place within the next 12 months or so. It is not possible to say at this stage whether further permissive changes arising from A-Day legislation will be included within that consultation.

Written Questions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects to answer Question *(a)* 126831 and *(b)* 126832, on GCSEs, tabled on 7 March by the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. [132236]

Jim Knight: A reply was issued to the hon. Member's questions 126831 on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 548-49W and to 126832 on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 549-52W.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Business: EC Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what financial support is provided by the European Union to UK representative business groups; and if he will make a statement. [133073]

Mr. McCartney: There is no specific allocation in the EU budget for supporting national representative business groups, and we are not aware that the EU has provided any significant financial support to such organisations. It is possible that individual UK business organisations may have benefited from EU grants to support specific activities but such details could be established only at disproportionate cost.

Counterfeit Manufacturing: Internet

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding is available to trading standards officers to help combat internet piracy. [130831]

Mr. McCartney: The funding and resourcing of trading standards is determined by their respective local authority. This will cover the enforcement of a wide range of legislation some of which aims to combat internet piracy.

Additional funding of £4.86 million (£4.191 million in England, £0.423 million in Scotland and £0.246 million in Wales) has been made available in 2007-8 for trading standards officers to accompany the commencement of s107a and s198a of the Copyrights Designs and Patents Act. These new powers relate to counterfeiting and piracy enforcement both physical and on the internet.

In addition, funding of £895,000 a year for two years in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is available to pilot specialist scambuster teams to work across local authority boundaries within a region targeting the worse rogue trading practices and scams which are often beyond the capacity of an individual local authority to deal with. Pilots are running in the north east, central England and across south east, east and London. The pilots will target different rogue trading practices depending on intelligence received and regional priorities, this may include those using the internet to defraud business and consumers.

A further £1.2 million is available over two years in 2006-07 and 2007-08 to Trading Standards to fund a regional intelligence capability to help use intelligence to inform enforcement activity.

Economic Partnership Agreements

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking in negotiations with EU countries on the scope of matters introduced in economic partnership agreements with southern countries which do not have the support of those countries. [130100]

Mr. McCartney: The UK believes that well-designed EPAs can promote long-term development, economic growth and poverty reduction in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. We recognise the importance of these agreements and have taken a strong, proactive approach in discussions within the European Union, drawing on the principles set out in the joint DTI/DFID Position Paper of March 2005, including ensuring that ACP countries have flexibility and choice over the content of the agreements.

The recent informal EU—ACP development minister meeting was productive and cause for optimism. ACP countries made firm their commitment to complete EPAs this year. DTI in conjunction with DFID will continue to support the ACP in every way possible to make sure that well designed EPAs are finalised this year. I am increasingly confident that this is within our grasp.

Energy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which organisations and individuals have been consulted in the preparation of the forthcoming Energy White Paper; and if he will list the documents, including websites, which have been used in the preparation of the White Paper. [132440]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are taking forward development of the policy proposals set out in the Energy Review Report in preparation for the 2007 Energy White Paper, which will be published in May.

A wide range of information and evidence, formal and informal discussions with interested parties, as well as a number of public consultations, have been a key part of informing the energy review process. The issues on which we have consulted, summaries of engagement activities and formal consultation responses can be found on the DTI website at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/review/page31995.html.

Alongside the White Paper we will be publishing a number of the reports and documents that helped inform our proposals.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the changes in planning law which are being proposed in respect of energy schemes arising from the Energy Review 2006. [132441]

Malcolm Wicks: We expect to publish the Energy White Paper in May which will cover our proposals on the planning arrangements for energy infrastructure.

Estate Agents: Complaints

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many complaints about the conduct of estate agents were received by the Office of Fair Trading in 2006; and how many investigations were conducted as a result; [131784]

(2) how many Office of Fair Trading investigations following complaints against estate agents in 2006 resulted in fines being payable; and what the total amount of fines levied was. [131785]

Mr. McCartney: In 2006, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) received 210 complaints about the conduct of estate agents. As a result of the complaints received, 117 investigations were carried out into estate agent activities by the OFT in 2006.

The OFT did not prosecute any estate agents for offences under the Estate Agents Act in 2006. This is because there are very few criminal offences associated with the Act. The most serious acts of misconduct by estate agents are instead dealt with by banning the individual concerned from being able to engage in estate agency work. This is the most effective means of protecting consumers.

In 2006, the OFT issued three warning orders and five prohibition orders under the Estate Agents Act 1979. In addition, it obtained four undertakings from estate agents under part 8 of the Enterprise Act 2002, and it also issued 63 advisory or warning letters.

The use of informal actions, such as advisory or warning letters, alongside the formal powers reflects the need for responsible and proportionate enforcement. Formal action against estate agents involves banning them, or threatening to ban them, from estate agency work. Formal action can therefore have significant repercussions in that it can take away an individual's livelihood. Parliament has therefore necessarily made the burden of evidential proof substantial and such action would only be taken in the limited number of cases where the most serious instances of misconduct are not only identified, but clearly established, and where the agent's fitness to continue in estate agency work is seriously called into question.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many notices of warning under the Estate Agents Act 1979 were issued by the Office of Fair Trading in 2006; [131801]

(2) how many notices of prohibition under the Estate Agents Act 1979 were issued by the Office of Fair Trading in 2006. [131802]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 17 April 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave her today to question numbers 131784 and 131785.

Fuel Poverty

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what indexes he uses to measure the impact of Government policy on fuel poverty. [131104]

Malcolm Wicks: A household is said to be in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10 per cent. of its income on fuel to maintain a satisfactory heating regime (usually 21°C for the main living area and 18°C for other occupied rooms). Figures for the number of households in fuel poverty in England are produced from analysis of the English House Condition Survey and published annually alongside figures from the Devolved Administrations in the UK Fuel Poverty Annual Progress Report.

In addition to the total number of households in fuel poverty, the English House Condition Survey is used to give detailed breakdowns of households in fuel poverty. The individual data records from the survey are also used for further analysis to assess the effectiveness of current policy and the impact of possible future policy options.

Government also actively reviews the assistance provided by the warm front scheme, the main programme designed to tackle fuel poverty in England, to ensure it is as effective as possible in reducing fuel poverty. A number of steps were taken to increase the impact of the scheme in 2005 including an increase in grant maxima and a wider provision of gas central heating. All actions are laid out in the Fuel Poverty Action Plan, published in 2004.

Medical Research Council

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) to what extent preferences shown by members of the public may influence the research priorities set by the Medical Research Council; [132219]

(2) what *(a)* process and *(b)* decision-making criteria will be used to set research funding priorities for the Medical Research Council in each of the next three years; and what the timetable is for the setting of those priorities in each year. [132222]

Malcolm Wicks: The MRC will set its research priorities for the three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11 building upon its extensive consultation with stakeholders, including the research community, other Research Councils, Government Departments, the national health service (NHS), industry and the public. The detailed research priorities will be developed by the MRC's research boards and, where appropriate, involving the Office of Strategic Coordination of Health Research (OSCHR), and will be finalised once the MRC's allocation from the Science Budget is known.

The decision-making criteria include scientific opportunity, the impact of research on improving human health, the tractability of the area, the potential for exploitation, and opportunities for research training.

The timetable covers:

When the science budget allocation to the MRC from CSR 2007 is made, the MRC will prepare a strategic plan for the four years 2008-09 to 2011-12. This is likely to be published towards the end of 2007 or early in 2008.

Priorities will continue to be reviewed during the next three years as described. Future MRC delivery plans will be published in April/May of each year. Any new priorities that arise in-between times will be announced on the MRC website.

The MRC has a range of longstanding mechanisms to sustain dialogue with the general public, to capture and use public opinion and attitudes in developing research priorities, corporate and communications objectives. These include a requirement of a lay representation on the steering committees, public and patient involvement in numerous committees, workshops and panels. The MRC also holds annual public meetings. In addition, the MRC has a programme of public consultations, often in collaboration with other research councils under the RCUK banner, which allow MRC to gauge public attitudes to, awareness and expectations of the research areas and some examples include the use of animals in research; research using human embryos; ageing research; and the use of personal health information for research.

The MRC set up in 2000 a consumer liaison group for developing public and patient involvement, which became the Advisory Group on Public Involvement in 2003. The MRC is currently developing a public panel that would assist the setting up a network of lay experts.

Mining: Compensation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps have been taken to ensure that the arrangements governing the payment of compensation payments to former miners minimises the cost of processing overheads. [133381]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department continually strives to achieve efficiency savings in the cost of running the schemes. For example, we have recently had some success in our appeal of the respiratory disease fast-track solicitors cost. This ruling will result in an estimated £99 million saving.

The fast-track process for respiratory disease claims should reduce claims processing costs by £150 million and shorten the scheme by two years.

A programme of efficiency improvements at the Department's claims handlers, Capita, saved 12m during 2005 and is estimated to have saved an additional 6m since.

The National Audit Office is also carrying out a value for money review of the Department's administration of the coal health compensation schemes. The report is anticipated during the summer.

Packaging

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to minimise the generation of packaging for consumer goods including food. [133515]

Malcolm Wicks: The Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003 (as amended) require that packaging volume and weight must be the minimum adequate amount to maintain necessary levels of safety, hygiene and acceptance for the packed product and for the consumer. As regards to discussions with producers of packaging, I refer to the reply given by my noble Friend the Minister for Energy in another place on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column WA117.

Post Offices: ICT

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received on the Horizon computer system used by the Post Office; and if he will make a statement. [132756]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend has received no recent formal representations about Post Office Ltd.'s Horizon computer system but the Department does occasionally receive correspondence about technical problems with the Horizon system at individual offices. Operational responsibility for Horizon rests with Post Office Ltd.

Public Holidays

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make St. George's Day a bank holiday in England. [132753]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The present pattern of bank holidays in the United Kingdom is well established and accepted, and the Government have no plans to change the arrangements.

Public Holidays: EC Action

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with his European Union counterparts concerning harmonising the number of bank holidays taken each year in member states; and if he will make a statement. [132755]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Public holidays throughout the European Union reflect the different histories and traditions of the countries concerned and vary from country to country.

The European Union average is 11 days and in some member states, for example Germany, entitlement to time off for a bank holiday is lost, if it falls at a weekend. In the United Kingdom if it falls at a weekend we have an alternative day off.

The present pattern of bank and public holidays is well established and accepted, and the Government have no current plans to change the arrangements or to discuss harmonisation with the member states.

However because some employers currently include the eight bank holidays as part of workers' statutory 20-day annual leave entitlement, we intend to make time off for bank holidays additional to this entitlement.

Regional Development Agencies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Holland and the Deepings of 11 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 738W, on regional development agencies, what the addresses are of each of the regional development agencies' overseas offices. [130582]

Margaret Hodge: The following list shows the addresses of the Regional Development Agencies' overseas offices.

Advantage West Midlands

The British Midlands—Australia Office
Unit 4, 7 Newry Street
Richmond
Victoria 3121
Australia

Oudergemselaan 22-28
Avenue d'Auderghem
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium

33, Avenue du Maine
Tour Montparnasse
75755 Paris Cedex 15
France

Im Dornenhau 29
50129 Bergheim
Germany

The British Midlands—India Office
4DB, Edena Building, 4th Floor,
97, Maharshi Karve Road,
Mumbai 400020
India

The British Midlands—Japan Office
Kishimoto Building 3F
311A2 - 1 Marunouchi
2 Chome, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-0005
Japan

Advantage West Midlands,
World Trade Centre,
Kungsbron 1 ,
Box 703 96,
S-107 24 Stockholm
Sweden

Eastern USA
225 Franklin Street
26th Floor
Boston MA 02110
USA

Southeast and Southwest USA
11951 Freedom Drive

13th Floor
Reston, VA20190
USA

Central USA
Civic Opera Building
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 930
Chicago, IL 60606
USA

West Coast USA
95 South Market Street
Suite 300
San Jose CA 95113,
USA

East England Development Agency
The USA office has closed

East Midlands Development Agency
DS Consulting GmbH
Mangstrasse 29
80997 Munich Bavaria
Germany

Breeze Strategy (France)
52 rue du Roi de Sicile
Paris 75004
France

Lars Weibull AB
Rundelen 3
SE-21136
Malmo
Sweden

Shared offices with Advantage West Midlands in Australia, India, Japan and USA

London Development Agency
Unit 9
11/F Cl
Oriental Plaza,
No.1 East Chang An Street
East City District
Beijing
P.R. China

North West Development Agency
North of England Inward Investment Agency
118 Victoria Road,
Rozelle NSW 2039
Australia

The North of England Japan Office
Renai Partire Shiodome 5F, 2-18-3,
Higashi Shimbashi,
Minato-ku,
Tokyo 105-0021

USA North of England Inward Investment Agency
3455 Peachtree Rd,
Atlanta, GA 303?6
USA
(office shared with One North East)

One North East
4th Floor BR Shinagawa, 2 Building
10-6, Kita-Shinagawa,
1-Chome
Shinagawa-ku
Tokyo 140-0001,
JAPAN

The North of England Office
The North of England II A
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There is no physical office in Norway. Staff travel extensively in Norway but are based in the UK.

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The North of England Office
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Kangnam Ku
Seoul 135934
KOREA

The North of England Office
4695 MacArthur Court
Suite 1100, llth Floor
Newport Beach
California 92660
USA

118 Victoria Road
Rozelle
NSW 2039
Australia

South East England Development Agency
180a Warringah Road,
Beacon Hill,
NSW 2100,
Australia

SEEDA Business
Information Centre
Trade and Industry Centre Building
2 Yamashita-cho
Naka-ku
Yokohama,
Japan

200 S Wacker Drive
Suite 3100
Chicago,IL 60606
USA

Suite 1620
New Town Centre
83 Loushanguan Road
Shanghai 200336,
China

SEEDA no longer has a representative in Korea

580 Harrison Avenue
4th floor
Boston
MA 02118
USA

*24 Rue du Vieux
78000 Versailles
Versailles
France
200 Page Mill Rd
Suite 200
Palo Alto
CA 94306 - 2022
USA

600 Anton Blvd
11th Floor
Costa Mesa
CA 92626
USA

South West of England Development Agency
Room 317, 3/F,
C-1 Shenzhen Hi-tech Industry Park
Shenzhen
P.R China
518057

Nishiyamakogyo-Akasaka Bldg.
2-15-18-403, Akasaka,
Minato-ku,
Tokyo 107-0052,
Japan

Australian operation delivered via a consultancy and all USA based staff are home-workers in California and Massachusetts.

Yorkshire Forward
North of England Australia Office
118 Victoria Road
Rozelle
NSW 2039
Australia

Yorkshire Forward China Office
A-809,Zhejiang World Trade Centre
122 Shuguang Road
Hangzhou 310007
P.R. China

North of England Japan Office
5F, Renai Partire Shiodome
2-18-3 Higashi Shimbashi
Minato-ku
Tokyo 105-0021
Japan

The North America offices in partnership with One North East and NWDA have been terminated by Yorkshire Forward.

Renewable Energy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to reduce the burden of administration for micro-energy producers who wish to sell energy to the National Grid; and if he will make a statement. [132076]

Malcolm Wicks: The Climate Change and Sustainability Act 2006 gives the Government the power to modify supply licences to ensure that energy suppliers offer to acquire electricity generated by microgenerators. These powers come into being in August 2007 and the Government intend to make use of these powers, subject to appropriate consultation, if the energy suppliers do not appear to be moving in this direction.

In the 2007 Budget, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor asked OFGEM to examine how homes that generate more electricity than they consume can benefit more from exporting electricity back to the network.

Research Councils: Finance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the announcements in the Budget about science funding, what funds are to be made available to the research councils for research funding in each of the next four years. [132771]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* The Research Councils allocation from the science budget for 2007-08 totals £2.8 billion. This is set out in the allocations booklet "Science Budget allocations 2005-06 to 2007-08" and can be found at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file14994.pdf

On 21 March the Budget 2007 announced the CSR07 settlement for the Science budget for the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11. Decisions on the individual allocations to Research Councils and other science budget programmes for these years have not yet been made.

Seals: EC Action

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with European Union colleagues on a ban on the importation of *(a)* harp and *(b)* hooded seal products into the EU; and if he will make a statement. [131100]

Mr. McCartney: I have jointly written with my hon. Friend, the Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare, to Commissioner Dimas, the EU Commissioner for the Environment urging him to extend the current EU-wide ban on listed products of Harp and Hooded seal pups to seals of all ages. We have also written to our Trade and Agricultural Ministerial counterparts in EU member states requesting their support. This has been followed up by Embassy officials. Support so far has been encouraging with very few member states opposing our request.

Small Businesses: Greater London

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to improve the competitiveness of small retail businesses in London; and if he will make a statement. [127846]

Margaret Hodge: Responsibility for improving the competitiveness of small businesses in London has been largely devolved to the London Development Agency.

The LDA through funding from the DTI pursues regional economic development and regeneration to reduce economic imbalances and improve competitiveness as well as providing publicly funded business support through Business Link. Small retailers are eligible for the same range of support measures as other small businesses.

The DTI Retail Unit also works with the sector to raise its productivity and improve its competitiveness by facilitating better regulation, incentivising innovation and encouraging good practice in areas such as skills, employment, international trade and environmental sustainability.

Stem Cells: Research

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the evidential basis was for the statement made by Sir David King at a public seminar organised by the Science and Technology Committee that extracting stem cells from human-animal hybrid embryos would enable scientists to learn more about diseases such as Alzheimer's; and if he will make a statement. [130836]

Malcolm Wicks: Because of their ability to differentiate into different cells and tissues, it is generally recognised by the scientific community that stem cells hold potential for the development of new cellular based treatments for diseases and injuries such as spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes and heart tissue damaged after a heart attack.

The Government's position is that if we are to find treatments and cures for currently unbeatable diseases, it is important that we do not unnecessarily restrict research avenues that might enable us to learn more about the development of stem cells. Such research must be carried out within a suitable regulatory framework that results from an open debate with the public and the research community and commands broad public support. We welcome the Science and Technology Committee's contribution to this conversation.

As Sir David King is an independent chief scientific advisor, the hon. Member for Southend, West may wish to write to him to seek further information regarding his discussion at the seminar.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals in London are considering reconfiguration of accident and emergency departments. [132790]

Andy Burnham: Any proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally.

There is an established and clear process for managing formal public consultations on proposals for major service change so that the public and other stakeholders can help to inform the local debate.

Care Homes

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish *(a)* her Department's response to the consultation on the draft national framework for continuing care and *(b)* the final national framework for continuing care. [131945]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: On 14 March I announced my intention to publish new national guidance around eligibility for NHS continuing care in June. This will respond to issues raised during the consultation and set out the new national framework.

Chester-Le-Street Community Hospital

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she decided to visit the Chester-le-Street Community hospital on 9 March 2007; when her Department informed the hospital of her visit; and what the cost of the visit was. [127561]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State decided to visit Chester-le-Street Community hospital on 8 March 2007.

County Durham PCT suggested that the Secretary of State visit Chester-le-Street hospital on 7 March. This followed a request from the Department of Health, and in turn NHS North East.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Deep Vein Thrombosis

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of deep vein thrombosis were recorded in each health authority in England in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many there were in each of the last five years. [131175]

Caroline Flint: The information is in the following table.

Finished consultant episodes[1] for deep vein thrombosis in national health service hospitals, England[2]

		Finished consultant episodes					
	Strategic health authority of treatment	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	2,093	2,147	2,207	2,292	2,121	2,097
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	1,188	1,172	1,282	1,426	1,046	786
Q03	Essex	963	884	970	809	782	868
Q04	North West London	1,244	1,380	1,422	1,189	1,176	1,988
Q05	North Central London	625	711	684	782	671	923
Q06	North East London	957	1,162	1,419	1,391	1,545	1,786
Q07	South East London	3,112	1,954	2,856	3,123	2,922	2,729
Q08	South West London	574	584	736	1,141	1,132	1,054
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	1,227	1,293	1,233	1,399	1,264	1,355
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley	775	855	1,482	1,381	1,203	1,325
Q11	North And East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	1,342	1,529	1,582	1,579	1,343	1,273
Q12	West Yorkshire	1,098	1,198	1,162	2,061	2,032	2,544
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire	1,000	1,250	2,042	1,991	1,791	1,844
Q14	Greater Manchester	1,738	2,756	3,445	3,558	3,505	3,663
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside	2,776	3,276	3,031	3,117	2,973	3,322
Q16	Thames Valley	1,271	1,101	1,083	1,194	1,159	1,171
Q17	Hampshire and Isle Of Wight	1,345	1,437	1,532	1,690	1,620	1,545
Q18	Kent and Medway	1,267	1,337	1,695	1,637	1,390	1,551
Q19	Surrey and Sussex	837	834	1,394	1,370	1,422	1,390
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	2,463	2,608	3,052	3,323	2,929	3,470
Q21	South West Peninsula	1,765	1,885	1,527	1,549	1,353	1,362
Q22	Dorset and Somerset	1,269	1,255	1,451	1,089	1,099	1,066
Q23	South Yorkshire	1,246	1,711	1,783	1,805	1,513	1,515
Q24	Trent	2,620	2,502	2,387	2,240	2,302	2,259
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	1,316	1,079	1,082	1,077	932	1,127
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire	1,264	1,259	1,258	1,340	1,263	1,368
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country	1,739	1,938	2,596	2,565	2,330	2,388
Q28	West Midlands South (Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire)	1,106	939	1,049	1,173	1,081	1,183
Y	Not known	5,567	3,574	0	4	0	0
	Total	45,787	45,610	47,542	49,295	46,303	48,952

[1] Finished Consultant Episode (FCE). An FCE is defined as a period of admitted care under on consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within a year.
[2] The figures are based on any diagnosis rather than main or principle diagnosis. They do not include cases treated by their general practitioner or as an out-patient.

The number of deaths with a mention of either pulmonary embolism or deep vein thrombosis[1] in England are:

[1] Cause of death defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD10) codes I26, I80.1, I80.2, I80.3, I80.9, I82.9

	Number
2001	12,216
2002	12,077
2003	12,398
2004	11,682
2005	11,548

Data on deaths by health authority are not readily available centrally.

Dental Services: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* net primary dental service allocation and *(b)* allocation for possible patient charge income was for Eastbourne Downs Primary Care Trust in 2006-07. [130973]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A table listing the Primary Dental Service Resource Allocations for 2006-07 for all primary care trusts (PCTs) in England as 31 July 2006 is available in the Library. This set out the net allocations awarded to PCTs and the assumed gross budgets based on illustrative assumptions about levels of patient charge income for each PCT. Strategic health authorities agreed with their PCTs locally how these allocations would be redistributed within the new PCT areas that took effect from 1 October 2006.

Dental Services: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the provision of NHS dentistry in Hertfordshire. [128044]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not made any assessment of the dental services in Hertfordshire. It is the responsibility of the primary care trusts to commission services to meet the needs of the population that they serve, this includes the provision of dental services.

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to ensure her Department's economical use of paper. [128006]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's overall policy is to reduce volume and wastage of paper used and therefore reduce expenditure.

The Department enters into European Union approved procurement procedures in order to attain the best value for money for paper products that conform to the requirement to purchase paper from renewable sources. It is purchased centrally to maximise savings achieved.

Our reprographics supplier is instructed only to use paper from renewable sources that meet our requirement and price and that all outputs are produced double-sided as standard.

The Department has also introduced an electronic filing system that negates the need for keeping paper copies and is reducing the number of available storage cabinets in our offices.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings took place between Ministers in her Department and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date was of each such meeting. [131032]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by her Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130146]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not available.

Departments: Railways

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of travel by train by staff on official business in her Department in each year since 1997. [128043]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The available information up to 2003-04 is shown in the following table. In April 2004, the Department introduced a new accounting system. Under the new accounting system information on train travel costs cannot be separated from other travel and subsistence costs without incurring disproportionate costs.

£

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*
UK	2,464,284	3,583,589	4,785,867	3,160,225	4,031,956	4,336,592	5,108,219
Overseas	35,853	39,241	30,977	26,902	36,899	27,231	26,540
Total	2,500,137	3,622,830	4,816,845	3,187,127	4,068,855	4,363,823	5,134,759

Dermatology

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of secondary care referral reductions on the future training of doctors aiming to become consultant dermatologists. [128726]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No such assessment has been carried out by the Department as this is for local determination.

Doctors: Training

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid to the Work Psychology Partnership in connection with the medical training application service. [128713]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is a contract in place between the Department and Work Psychology Partnership for the sum of £92,950 excluding VAT. Work Psychology Partnership are contracted to provide advice and tools to support the recruitment and selection into specialty training programmes, for which the Medical Training Application Service facilitates applications.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the Medical Training Application Service (MTAS); and how much has been allocated to MTAS for 2007-08. [128715]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The cost of the Medical Training Application Service (including set up costs) is £1.9 million in 2006-07. The budgets for 2007-08 have not yet been agreed.

Elderly: Nutrition

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to ensure that patients in hospital over the age of 65 years receive an appropriate diet; and if she will make a statement. [118254]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: An appropriate diet requires good food with the right nutritional content, properly prepared and available when patients need it.

The National Health Service Plan stipulated that dieticians should advise and check on nutritional values in hospital food. Nutritional information is available for all recipes in the national dish selector, and this can be used to assess local nutritional levels. Ingredients specifications for the recipes have been developed by the Purchasing and Supply Agency to ensure that wholesome, high quality and value-for-money ingredients are used.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) Strategic Plan for 2005-10 includes a commitment to support other Government Departments to set targets to improve the nutritional quality of meals served in major institutions. Work is under way to develop nutrient and food based guidance for institutions that will support cross-Government action on diet and food procurement. The first set of guidance, including an example menu, for those providing food to older people in residential care who do not have specific diet-related medical needs, was published by the FSA in October 2006.

The quality of hospital food is measured annually via patient environment action team (PEAT) assessments. These showed an increase from 17 per cent., good in 2002 to over 34 per cent., excellent in 2005-06. (There was no excellent category in 2002, when a three-point scale was used).

Older people in hospital may prefer to eat little and often, and this was provided for in the NHS Plan. For the last year in which statistics were collected (2004), 89 per cent. of hospitals had introduced ward kitchen services to provide light snacks, 80 per cent. were providing snack boxes for patients who missed a meal and 84 per cent. provided extra snacks during the day.

It is known that older people in hospital are vulnerable to malnutrition. To identify and deal with patients at risk, we have introduced protected mealtimes and have renewed the emphasis on nutritional screening. These two areas of work are being actively pursued by the National Patient Safety Agency.

I announced a national action plan on 14 March 2007 to tackle the issue of older people and nutrition more generally. The action plan followed a nutrition summit on the same day, attended by leading charities, clinicians, nutrition experts and care home representatives. It will be further worked up in close consultation with frontline workers.

Fibromyalgia

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has commissioned into the causes and treatment of fibromyalgia; and if she will make a statement. [132073]

Caroline Flint: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's expenditure on health research has been allocated to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual projects supported in the NHS, including a significant number concerned with fibromyalgia, can be found on the national research register at:

www.dh.gov.uk/research.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is not currently funding research specifically into fibromyalgia although some basic research currently being undertaken will help develop our understanding of the condition.

Good Hope Hospital

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed at Good Hope hospital in each of the last 10 years. [107633]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Hospital and community health services (HCHS): medical and dental and non-medical staff working within Good Hope hospital National Health Service Trust, as at 30 September each year

		Number (headcount)
	Medical and dental staff	*Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff*
1996	163	859
1997	179	809
1998	172	777
1999	192	880
2000	185	834
2001	201	803
2002	210	826
2003	228	847
2004	240	853
2005	265	918

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census. The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

GPs: Training

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when general practitioner trainers will receive payments for the 2006-07 financial year for continuing professional development; and if she will make a statement. [128687]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In its 34th report the doctors' and dentists' review body recommended a £750 supplement for general practitioner trainers to boost their continuing professional development. It is for strategic health authorities to meet this commitment.

Health Professions: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* dentists, *(b)* opticians and *(c)* general practitioners there were in Bexley in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. [127649]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested can be found in the following tables.

Table 1 shows data on the number of dentists as at 31 March 1997 and 2006 based on the old contractual arrangements.

Table 1: general dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): numbers of national health service dentists in Bexley Care Trust and Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency

	1997	2006
Bexley Care Trust	92	102
Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency	34	9

Notes:
1. The postcode of the dental practice was used to allocate dentists to specific geographic areas. Constituency and primary care trust (PCT) areas have been defined using the Office for National Statistics All Fields Postcode Directory.
2. Dentists consist of principals, assistant and trainees. Information on national health service dentistry in the community dental service, in hospitals and in prisons are excluded.
3. The data in this report are based on NHS dentists on PCT lists. These details were passed on to the BSA who paid dentists based on activity undertaken. A dentist can provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the PCT. In some cases an NHS dentist may appear on a PCT list but not perform any NHS work in that period. Most NHS dentists do some private work. The data do not take into account the proportion of NHS work undertaken.
4. Figures for the numbers of dentists at specified dates may vary depending on the date the figures are compiled. This is because the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) may be notified of joiners or leavers to or from the up to several months, or more, after the move has taken place.
5. Constituency and PCT data include all dentists practising in that area. Some dentists may have an open GDS or PDS contract in more than one constituency and therefore they have been counted more than once.
6. The boundaries used are as at 31 March 2006.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care, Dental Statistics NHS Business Services Authority

Table 2 shows information on the number of optical practitioners (headcount) for 1997 for Greenwich and Bexley Health Authority (HA). The latest information available in Table 3 shows the number of optical practitioners (headcount) for Bexley Care Trust in 2005.

Table 2: Ophthalmic workforce for Greenwich and Bexley HA as at 31 December 1997

	1997
Greenwich and Bexley HA	202

Notes:
1. Some practitioners included in this table may also have held a contract with another HA.
2. These figures do not take into account the level of activity (if any) of each practitioner.
3. Practitioners include Ophthalmic opticians and Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care, Ophthalmic Statistics

Table 3: Ophthalmic workforce for Bexley Care Trust as at 31 December 2005

	2005
Bexley Care Trust	48

Notes:
1. Some practitioners included in this table may also have held a contract with another PCT.
2. These figures do not take into account the level of activity (if any) of each practitioner.
3. Practitioners include Ophthalmic opticians and Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners.
4. The 2005 figures are affected by the changes in the General Ophthalmic Services (GOS) regulations introduced on 1 April 2005.
5. Work force figures for 2006 are not currently available. These will be published in summer 2007.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care, Ophthalmic Statistics

General practitioner data are not available at the specific years of 1997 and 2006 for Bexley. Data are only available at PCT level.

Table 4 shows number of general practitioners working within the Bexley Care Trust for years 2005 (latest data available) and 2001 (year the care trust was created).

Table 4: General medical practitioners (excluding GP registrars and GP retainers[1]) working in Bexley Care Trust, as at 30 September each year

	Number (headcount) and full-time equivalents			
	2001		2005	
	Number	FTE	Number	FTE
Bexley Care Trust	101	94	117	106

1 General medical practitioners (excluding GP Registrars and GP Retainers) includes Contracted GPs, GMS Others, PMS Others.

Note:
The Care Trust was created in 2001.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care, General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Heart Diseases: Medical Equipment

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) why the cost of stent devices used in endovascular repair of aortic aneurysm is met by primary care trusts; and if she will make a statement; [122631]

(2) what recent representations she has received on the inclusion of the stent device used in endovascular repair of aortic aneurysm on the list of exclusions from payment by results funding. [122640]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In consultation with the national health service and industry, the list of drug and device exclusions from the payment by results has been increased. This ensures that care which includes the use of expensive drugs and/or devices is adequately rewarded. This is part of an annual cycle, which aims to ensure the tariff takes account of the introduction of new drugs and devices.

The payment by results team have had representations about the funding of endovascular repair of aortic aneurysms under tariff. These include queries direct from clinicians, and through a questionnaire issued last year to seek feedback from the NHS on the funding of specialised services. Aortic

stents are excluded from payment by results in order to help address these concerns. The Department has had no representations that the exclusion of aortic stents is inappropriate.

Hospitals: Infections

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital-acquired infections were diagnosed in each year between 1997 and 2006, broken down by type of infection in each strategic health authority. [130956]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available. The best available information is from the mandatory surveillance system, which provides data on the number of reports of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood stream infections (bacteraemias) from April 2001 to 31 March 2006, the number of reports of *Clostridium difficile* for patients aged 65 and over from January 2004 to September 2006 are shown in the table and the number of glycopeptide resistant enterococci (GRE) blood stream infections from 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2005.

Data has been extracted from "HCAI: Quarterly Reporting Results for Clostridium difficile Infections and MRSA Bacteraemia", as published in January 2007. Data for glycopeptides resistant enterococci blood stream infections was extracted from the mandatory surveillance of the healthcare associated infection report 2006 published in July 2006.

Table 1: Annual counts of Clostridium difficile (January 2004 to September 2006)

SHA	Number of C.difficile reports for patients > 65 years January to December 2004	Number of C.difficile reports for patients > 65 years January to December 2005	Number of C.difficile reports for patients > 65 years January to September 2006
East Midlands	2,483	3,812	4,021
East of England	5,418	5,953	4,856
London	6,065	7,358	5,850
North East	2,319	2,800	2,255
North West	5,351	6,359	5,357
South Central	3,351	3,458	2,630
South East Coast	4,096	4,511	3,850
South West	5,421	6,718	4,733
West Midlands	5,446	6,414	5,702
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,157	4,307	3,371
Total	44,107	51,690	42,625

Table 2: Annual counts of MRSA bacteraemia April 2001 to March 2006

	April to March each year				
	MRSA bacteraemia reports				
SHA	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
East Midlands	543	494	519	450	433
East of England	754	713	684	725	678
London	1,616	1,707	1,682	1,392	1,321
North East	363	380	389	360	378
Northwest	867	934	975	1,016	1,030
South Central	439	447	467	426	451
South East Coast	539	551	578	583	600
South West	695	724	730	670	690
West Midlands	761	812	882	860	862
Yorkshire and the Humber	714	664	792	751	652
Total	7,291	7,426	7,698	7,233	7,095

Table 3: Annual counts of glycopeptide resistant enterococci blood stream infections from 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2005

	1 October to 30 September each year	
	Glycopeptide resistant enterococci reports	
SHA	2003-04	2004-05
East Midlands	32	48
East of England	73	92
London	[1]229	[2]247
North East	3	4
North West	59	113
South Central	58	43
South East Coast	33	35
South West	38	58

Table 3: Annual counts of glycopeptide resistant enterococci blood stream infections from 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2005

	1 October to 30 September each year	
	Glycopeptide resistant enterococci reports	
SHA	2003-04	2004-05
West Midlands	72	89
Yorkshire and the Humber	31	28
Total	628	757

[1] One trust missing data for all four quarters.
[2] One trust missing data for two quarters.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1012W, on hospitals: infectious disease,

if she will publish the evidential basis for her statement that recent information suggests no difference between in-house and contract cleaning with respect to hospital-acquired infections; when she first asked for studies into the possible links between hospitals with different cleaning arrangements and *(a)* MRSA and *(d)* clostridium difficile; when officials in her Department first received the results of these studies; and if she will place copies of the results of these studies in the Library. [130411]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Preliminary statistical analysis suggests that, other things being equal, hospitals with contract cleaning do not have statistically significantly different rates of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemia (bloodstream infection) to those with in-house cleaning. This is the result of on-going analysis by the Department into the relationship between MRSA rates and a variety of hospital characteristics, the results of which will be finalised and published later this year. Preliminary analysis also suggests that there is also no significant relationship between type of cleaning service and *clostridium difficile* rates.

This work was not formally commissioned but statistical analysis has been ongoing since 2004 and Ministers have been kept informed of emerging results since that time. This work forms part of ongoing work in the Department aimed at better understanding variations in health care associated infections and their implications for policy.

Male Health

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to ensure the accuracy of self-reporting of health conditions of *(a)* UK Irish men and *(b)* white British men living in England. [117517]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is committed to tackling gender inequalities within the health and social care sector by recognising the specific health needs of men and women. The Department commissioned the Men's Health Forum to work with five primary care trusts (PCTs) to develop a tool to assist PCTs in providing gender sensitive services, which was launched in November 2006.

The Department is also seeking to raise the quality of ethnicity data in healthcare. In July 2005, we published guidance on ethnicity monitoring of national health service patients and social care users, confirming the use of Office for National Statistics codes for ethnic group, which include white British and white Irish. The guidance states that trusts should not, for data collection purposes, group white British and white Irish codes into one, as this will prevent trusts from monitoring the particular health inequalities experienced by Irish men and women.

Maternity Services: Gravesham

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the future provision of ante-natal services available to patients in Gravesham. [130996]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This a matter for the local national health service. However in Gravesham, as elsewhere in the country, we would expect NHS organisations to follow the maternity standard of the children's national service framework and the guidelines on antenatal care published in 2003 by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). In terms of antenatal education, the guidelines confirm that there are many different ways of providing classes and antenatal education. Variations can occur in the number of classes offered, their content, whether they are offered individually or in groups, and when during the course of the pregnancy they are offered.

NHS Direct

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors her Department took into account when deciding to withdraw funding from BestTreatments, the health information resource for patients which has been available online on the NHS Direct website; and if she will make a statement. [111917]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department of Health is committed to providing patients and the public with the information they need to make informed decisions about their health, but needs to target resources where they will be most effective. The reasons for the decision were that the contract for "Best Treatments" had expired and the service no longer represented value for money.

The Department will ensure that patients have access to the information that they need by developing new on-line and telephone based resources, through partnerships with libraries, through our new information prescriptions and by accrediting third party producers of information. In this way, the Department will help people to find the excellent information that is already available rather than duplicate production and assure people that the information they access is reliable and relevant to them.

NHS: Intimidation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints of harassment or bullying have been made by employees of the NHS; and what steps have been taken *(a)* to deal with and *(b)* to eradicate it. [119840]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Healthcare Commission's National Health Service Staff Survey was published on 30 March. The survey records staff experiences of violence and bullying. The results can be found on the Healthcare Commission's website:

www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases.cfm/cit_id/5334/FAArea1/customWidgets.content_view_1/usecache/false

The NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) is part of the Counter Fraud and Security Management Service (CFSMS), a division of the NHS Business Service Authority (a Special Health Authority), and has overall responsibility for all policy and operational matters related to the management of security in the NHS including bullying and violence against staff.

Guidance on reporting and dealing with non-physical assaults against NHS staff and professionals was issued to health bodies in November 2004. From 1 April 2004, a national syllabus for conflict resolution training (CRT) has been made available for all frontline staff and professionals working in the NHS. The aim is to equip staff with the necessary skills to be able to identify and de-escalate potentially violent situations from occurring in the first place. Returns from health bodies for the financial year 2005-06 indicate that around 250,000 frontline staff have been trained in conflict resolution skills, to date.

Research on the conflict resolution training programme delivered to NHS frontline staff produced extremely encouraging results which have been published in February 2007. The results from the two-year study indicated that CRT had a positive impact on respondents' perceptions of safety, their experiences of abuse and their perceived abilities to deal with abuse at work. The full report on the findings is available at www.cfsms.nhs.uk.

On Wednesday 1 November, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health, announced an increase of 12 per cent. in the number of people prosecuted for assaults against NHS staff, from 759 in 2004-05 to 850 in 2005-06. This shows a marked increase on the reported 51 criminal sanctions for the 2002-03 period.

Figures for the number of reported assaults against NHS staff were also released on 1 November 2006. The statistics show there were 58,695 physical assaults against NHS staff reported in England, 1,690 fewer than 2004-05—and one for every 23 staff members, down from 22 in 2004-05.

NHS: Public Appointments

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether residency in the catchment area is a criterion used in the appointment of members of NHS trust boards; and what guidelines she has issued to strategic health authorities on appointments to NHS trust boards. [120933]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The appointment of chairs and non-executive directors of national health service trusts has been delegated by the Secretary of State for Health to the Appointments Commission. She has directed the Commission to appoint people, where possible, who live in the area served by the NHS trust.

Nurses: Pay

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage increase in nurses' pay was in each year since 1997. [125276]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 6 March 2007]*: The following table shows pay recommendations of the review body for nursing and other health professions for qualified nurses, the pay uplift awarded in year and the change in average qualified nurses' earnings per head. Average earnings growth differs from the basic pay uplift as a result of net pay drift and investment in pay reform.

	Main nursing and other health professional review body recommendation	*Pay uplift awarded*	*Percentage Change in average qualified nurses earnings per head*
1997-98	3.3	[1]3.0	-8.5
1998-99	3.8	[1]2.6	1.0
1999-2000	4.7	4.7	6.2
2000-01	3.4	3.4	4.9
2001-02	3.7	3.7	5.6
2002-03	3.6	3.6	3.8
2003-04	3.225	3.2	2.4
2004-05	3.225	3.2	6.1
2005-06	3.225	3.2	4.2
2006-07	2.5	2.5	[2]5.2
2007-08	2.5	[1]1.9	[2]4.3

[1] 1997-98, 1998-99 and 2007-08 were years where the awards were staged.
[2] 2006-07 and 2007-08 earnings growth figures are projections and are subject to change.
Note:
For 1997-98 the information was not collected.

Physiotherapy: Training

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many trainee physiotherapists she expects to qualify in each of the next three years. [128332]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical nurse specialists are working with prostate cancer patients in the NHS. [128513]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Specialist cancer nurses are not separately identified in the census from the rest of the nursing workforce.

Sickle Cell Diseases

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were diagnosed with sickle cell disease and related disorders in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; [133527]

(2) how many people have been diagnosed with sickle cell disease and related disorders in each region in England; and how much was spent on their care per capita in each of the last five years. [133530]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect this information.

Special Advisers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 872W, on special advisers, whether *(a)* she and *(b)* officials in her Department have received notices of external employment from her special advisers in the last 12 months. [130412]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have nothing further to add to the answer given on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 872W.

Treatment Notices

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any patient surveys have been undertaken on the usefulness to NHS patients of notices sent to them on forthcoming treatments. [109477]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are not aware of any recent national surveys. The national patient survey programme, which asks patients about their experience of national health service care, does not request this information.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many intervention orders have been applied as part of an antisocial behaviour order in *(a)* Bristol local authority and *(b)* each Respect Action area since this power came into effect on 1 October 2006. [132154]

Mr. McNulty: Data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued at all courts are currently available covering the period up to 31 December 2005. Data for subsequent periods will be published in due course. However, as I made clear in a written ministerial statement on 7 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 30WS, this data do not cover intervention orders. A new national system for collecting data on ASBOs centrally is scheduled for implementation from 1 July, and will incorporate new reporting requirements, including data on intervention orders which will be available at Criminal Justice System area level.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper or publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers or publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic was of each. [130007]

Mr. Byrne: The Department does not hold the information, at the requested level of detail, in a readily accessible form. An answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Neither does the Department retain records of how much its contractors spend with particular media outlets, for example the Central Office of Information, who manage most of the Department's publicity campaigns.

Departments: Counselling

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare services are delivered by *(a)* external drug agencies, *(b)* prison officers and *(c)* health care staff. [132416]

Mr. Sutcliffe: External drug agencies deliver 77 per cent. worth of the total value of counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare services (CARATs) and 23 per cent. is delivered by prison staff. Health care staff do not deliver CARATs services.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1222W, on domestic violence, if he will provide Table 2 referred to in the answer. [133239]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I apologise for the omission of the table concerned. This was due to an administrative oversight. The following table shows the number of convictions for domestic violence cases.

Table 2: Proceedings for domestic violence for 2005 and 2006

	2005					2006				
	Convictions		Unsuccessful outcomes			Convictions		Unsuccessful outcomes		
	Number	%	Number	%	Total	Number	%	Number	%	Total
Avon and Somerset	750	67.1	367	32.9	1,117	986	66.4	499	33.6	1,485
Bedfordshire	189	44.3	238	55.7	427	334	55.1	272	44.9	606
Cambridgeshire	333	62.1	203	37.9	536	378	62.2	230	37.8	608
Cheshire	578	64.9	312	35.1	890	870	64.7	474	35.3	1,344
Cleveland	371	65.7	194	34.3	565	570	67.9	270	32.1	840
Cumbria	292	61.1	186	38.9	478	327	66.3	166	33.7	493
Derbyshire	673	56.1	526	43.9	1,199	738	61.1	470	38.9	1,208
Devon and Cornwall	726	54.3	612	45.7	1,338	823	64.3	456	35.7	1,279
Dorset	276	64.8	150	35.2	426	425	66.8	211	33.2	636
Durham	401	75.0	134	25.0	535	589	71.5	235	28.5	824
Dyfed Powys	172	61.6	107	38.4	279	297	70.9	122	29.1	419
Essex	661	52.5	597	47.5	1,258	709	61.5	443	38.5	1,152
Gloucestershire	440	67.7	210	32.3	650	485	69.4	214	30.6	699

Table 2: Proceedings for domestic violence for 2005 and 2006

	2005					2006				
	Convictions		Unsuccessful outcomes			Convictions		Unsuccessful outcomes		
	Number	%	Number	%	Total	Number	%	Number	%	Total
Greater Manchester	1,285	65.8	668	34.2	1,953	2,169	68.3	1,008	31.7	3,177
Gwent	288	59.8	194	40.2	482	438	64.5	241	35.5	679
Hampshire and IOW	906	60.8	583	39.2	1,489	1,243	67.5	598	32.5	1,841
Hertfordshire	477	51.5	449	48.5	926	492	57.6	362	42.4	854
Humberside	441	75.8	141	24.2	582	734	76.3	228	23.7	962
Kent	437	64.2	244	35.8	681	811	68.0	382	32.0	1,193
Lancashire	1,089	72.0	424	28.0	1,513	1,653	66.0	852	34.0	2,505
Leicestershire	523	59.8	351	40.2	874	766	59.1	531	40.9	1,297
Lincolnshire	249	57.5	184	42.5	433	393	71.2	159	28.8	552
London	2,067	51.0	1,982	49.0	4,049	3,338	53.5	2,905	46.5	6,243
Merseyside	770	51.5	724	48.5	1,494	1,157	59.3	795	40.7	1,952
Norfolk	421	71.0	172	29.0	593	571	76.0	180	24.0	751
Northamptonshire	326	59.4	223	40.6	549	332	57.3	247	42.7	579
Northumbria	950	66.7	474	33.3	1,424	1,115	66.8	554	33.2	1,669
North Wales	454	68.2	212	31.8	666	599	70.4	252	29.6	851
North Yorkshire	334	58.3	239	41.7	573	356	62.9	210	37.1	566
Nottinghamshire	550	53.2	483	46.8	1,033	676	59.4	463	40.6	1,139
South Wales	678	52.2	622	47.8	1,300	849	62.4	511	37.6	1,360
South Yorkshire	751	66.3	382	33.7	1,133	1,210	70.8	500	29.2	1,710
Staffordshire	800	47.9	869	52.1	1,669	1,032	65.2	550	34.8	1,582
Suffolk	428	63.7	244	36.3	672	652	76.7	198	23.3	850
Surrey	248	53.0	220	47.0	468	214	59.0	149	41.0	363
Sussex	656	57.4	487	42.6	1,143	754	59.8	506	40.2	1,260
Thames Valley	832	57.5	615	42.5	1,447	1,303	60.0	867	40.0	2,170
Warwickshire	98	77.2	29	22.8	127	156	76.8	47	23.2	203
West Mercia	423	51.0	406	49.0	829	507	63.1	297	36.9	804
West Midlands	1,761	59.5	1,199	40.5	2,960	2,558	60.5	1,669	39.5	4,227
West Yorkshire	1,605	55.8	1,271	44.2	2,876	1,749	62.8	1,034	37.2	2,783
Wiltshire	405	66.6	203	33.4	608	462	66.4	234	33.6	696
Total	26,114	59.0	18,130	41.0	44,244	35,820	63.5	20,591	36.5	56,411

Fingerprints: ICT

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of the mobile fingerprint scanner pilot project codenamed Lantern. [132954]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* The Lantern pilot runs for 12 months (up to December 2007) and the cost of providing the technology, upgrading the IDENT1 search capability (capability that can be re-used throughout the full IDENT1 contract life), training and service for the 10 pilot forces is £2.6 million.

ICT: Home Office

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost was of updating his Department's Large Major Enquiry System 2 computer system to Version 11. [132955]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* The Version 11 Upgrade to HOLMES 2, which included the refresh of the free text retrieval package, cost £585,836. PITO paid £302,486 and the forces contributed £283,350 via a centrally managed uplift fund. This included £165,855 for CasWeb which is part of HOLMES 2.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to minimise the migration to the UK of unskilled workers. [132003]

Mr. Byrne: The Government's Five Year Strategy on Asylum and Immigration, published in February 2005, stated that existing low-skilled migration schemes for non-EEA nationals would be phased out in the light of the availability of workers from the enlarged European Union. The quota for Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) was cut from 25,000 in 2004 to 16,250 in the following three years. The quota for the Sectors Based Scheme (SBS) was cut from 20,000 in 2003-04 to 15,000 in 2004-05 and to 3,500 in the following years with the termination of the SBS quota for the hospitality sector altogether in July 2005.

The Government have subsequently announced that the SAWS will be phased out in 2010 and, in the meantime, both the SAWS and the SBS will move to being restricted to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals

while quota restrictions on those countries nationals' access to low skilled work in the United Kingdom are in force.

The Government have stated that if there is a need to admit non-EEA nationals to meet labour shortages at low skill levels in particular sectors in the future, quota-based schemes will be established under Tier 3 of the Points Based System for this purpose. It will for the Migration Advisory Committee to identify whether there is a case for doing so for any particular sector. Following the recent expansion of the EU and the continuing restrictions on low skilled labour from Romania and Bulgaria, a Tier 3 scheme is unlikely to be needed in the short-term.

Migrant Workers

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to promote the migration to the UK of skilled workers. [132002]

Mr. Byrne: There are a number of existing schemes to facilitate the entry of skilled workers to the UK labour market, the primary ones being the highly skilled migrant programme and the work permit system.

A new points-based system, which will apply to all work and study routes, will be phased in from early 2008.

Tier 1 of the system, which caters for highly skilled migrants such as scientists and entrepreneurs, will be launched at the beginning of 2008;

Tier 2, targeting skilled workers with a job offer and Tier 5, for youth mobility and temporary workers, will come on line in the third quarter of 2008; and

Tier 4, for students, will follow at the beginning of 2009.

A system of sponsorship by employers and educational institutions to ensure compliance with the immigration rules is also being introduced as part of the new system at the beginning of next year.

The points-based system will enable the Government to manage migration to the UK more effectively, tackle abuse and attract the most talented workers into the UK economy.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many staff in his Department are working on establishing and maintaining the new system of restrictions on workers from Romania and Bulgaria; [106188]

(2) what estimate has been made of the cost to his Department of establishing and maintaining the new system of restrictions on workers from Romania and Bulgaria. [106189]

Mr. Byrne: Firstly I wish to apologise for the delay in responding.

There is a dedicated Home Office unit, based in Sheffield, responsible for establishing and maintaining the new scheme to maintain limits on access to the labour market by nationals of Bulgaria and Romania, and issuing documentation to those who meet the necessary criteria. They were assisted in the initial establishment of their work by colleagues from around the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) as preparations were made to reflect the accession of the two countries in all aspects of IND's work.

The costs of establishing the scheme are estimated to be approximately £1.6 million, broken down as follows:

	£ million
Scheme set-up costs	1.11
Informing employers	0.24
Informing Bulgarian and Romanian nationals	0.23

Estimated costs for running this scheme for 2007 are £1.45 million. This is in addition to the £1.6 million for establishing the scheme detailed above.

National Appropriate Adult Network: Finance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much funding was given to *(a)* the National Appropriate Adult Network and *(b)* the Independent Custody Visitors Association, in each of the last three financial years; [130436]

(2) what the projected funding allocation for *(a)* the National Appropriate Adult Network and *(b)* the Independent Custody Visitors Association is for each of the next two financial years. [130437]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 28 March 2007]*: The following funding has been provided by the Home Office for the financial years 2004-05 to 2006-07.

			£
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
(a) National Appropriate Adult Network	50,000	100,000	75,000
(b) Independent Custody Visiting Association	187,500	57,996	150,000

I understand that NAAN receives regular income from their membership (statutory or voluntary/commercial appropriate adult schemes) and have also successfully obtained grant funding from grant-making bodies such as the Rowntree Foundation. ICVA also receives income from membership fees (police authorities) and has generated additional revenue through the provision of services with the Scottish Executive, the NIO and overseas.

The Home Office has recently been working with NAAN, ICVA and the Association of Police Authorities to review the existing provisions of services and the roles and functions of both organisations.

Funding for 2007-08 and 2008-09 is not yet finalised.

Northallerton Young Offender Institution

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison staff at HM Young Offenders Institution Northallerton have been dismissed or disciplined in each year from 2001-02 to 2006-07 following successful claims for compensation by prisoners. [132615]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 April 2007]:* In the public sector Prison Service, information relating to prisoner litigation claims has only been recorded centrally since 2004-05. According to these centrally held records, no prison staff at HM Young Offenders Institute Northallerton have been dismissed or disciplined following successful claims for compensation by prisoners.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many claims for compensation were made by prisoners at HM Young Offenders Institution Northallerton from 2001 to 2006; how many have been successful; and what action was taken by the prison authorities in each case to prevent similar claims in the future. [132616]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 April 2007]:* Figures available centrally indicate that between 2004-05 and 2006-07, Northallerton received four litigation claims from prisoners. During the same period three of those claims were settled out of court. Figures prior to 2004-05 were not recorded centrally.

Each case is dealt with on its own merits and any remedial action that is identified to minimise further successful claims is, where appropriate, implemented.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why his Department agreed a £575,000 compensation settlement to an inmate of HM Young Offender Institution Northallerton; and if he will make a statement. [132748]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 April 2007]:* The Prison Service settled the case following a full analysis of all the evidence, based on strong legal advice from the Home Office appointed solicitor and barrister. The value of the settlement was determined by the available medical evidence and the Judicial Studies Board guidelines on general damages. The claim was settled in order to minimise costs to the taxpayer because if the claim had proceeded to court it would have resulted in considerably more expense to the public purse.

Knife Crime

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of knife crime were reported in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [131275]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify those offences which are knife related. Such offences are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime statistics.

Figures are collected for homicides involving the use of sharp instruments but they do not separately identify knife-related offences. As from April 2007, police forces will provide data on knife-enabled grievous bodily harm and robbery offences.

Pentonville Prison

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the Commissioning Authority is for *(a)* the investigation into staff corruption at HM Prison Pentonville and *(b)* the Tasker inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [132975]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no single over-arching investigation into corruption at HMP Pentonville. The Governor of Pentonville has however commissioned a number of investigations into allegations of staff corruption at the prison.

The Area Manager for London is the commissioning authority for the Tasker report.

Police: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what policing costs associated with the wedding of Elizabeth Hurley and Arun Nayar were met by *(a)* Gloucestershire police and *(b)* the organisers of the event. [132517]

Mr. McNulty: This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Police: Translation Services

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on translation services for foreign suspects by each police force in each year between 1997 and 2006. [132827]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to a question from the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1636W.

Prisoners Release

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders given life sentences since 2000 have already been released. [132067]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* Answering the question would involve a significant manual checking of records and the earlier request for this information was integral to informing the need for a data quality review in the Department. Since then the data quality review has begun and, as part of that review we are developing a new database that will enable us to collect the data requested centrally. But, at this time, to answer the question would involve a disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drug rehabilitation programmes are provided within prison establishments; and how many of these have dedicated accommodation. [132418]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are currently 116 intensive drug rehabilitation programmes running across the prison estate. Information on the number of establishments with dedicated accommodation is not held centrally.

Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on his Department's decision to phase out the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme in 2010. [132082]

Mr. Byrne: The Government's Five Year Strategy on Asylum and Immigration, published in February 2005, stated that existing low-skilled migration schemes for non-EEA nationals would be phased out in the light of the availability of workers from the enlarged European Union.

The Government have subsequently announced that the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme will be phased out in 2010 and, in the meantime, will move to it being restricted to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals while quota restrictions on those countries nationals' access to low skilled work in the United Kingdom are in force.

The Government have stated that if there is a need to admit non-EEA nationals to meet labour shortages at low skill levels in particular sectors in the future, quota-based schemes will be established under Tier 3 of the Points Based System for this purpose. It will be for the Migration Advisory Committee to identify whether there is a case for doing so for any particular sector. Following the recent expansion of the EU and the continuing restrictions on low skilled labour from Romania and Bulgaria, a Tier 3 scheme is unlikely to be needed in the short-term.

Thehbian Salin

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Mr. Thehbian Salin as referred to in the question tabled by the hon. Member for Penrith and the Border on 6 October 2006 has been deported. [127232]

Mr. Byrne: It is not our policy to comment on individual cases.

Tolls: Cameras

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether proposals to integrate cameras from *(a)* congestion charging and *(b)* road pricing schemes into the automated number plate recognition scheme have been considered. [129504]

Mr. McNulty: The police use of automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) technology is an intelligence-led tool aimed primarily at tackling serious and organised crime and terrorism. It is entirely separate from proposals being developed by the Department for Transport for local road pricing schemes.

The Metropolitan police have approached Transport for London about the feasibility of using London congestion charging cameras for safeguarding the security of the general public. The terrorist threat we face is real and serious and it is only right that we consider anything which may be of use to us in the fight against terrorism, but no decisions have been made on this matter.

Wandsworth Prison

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the Tasker Inquiry into the conduct of the previous governor at HM Prison Wandsworth to be completed; and to whom the report will be submitted for consideration. [133020]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Tasker report is now due to be completed by the end of April, and will be submitted to the Area Manager for London for consideration. I have asked to see a summary of the report which will not be published.

Written Questions

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to question number 122841, on Oakhill Secure Training Centre, tabled by the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes on 20 February. [131176]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 470W.

TREASURY

Census: Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications for Freedom of Information Act access to extracts from the 1921 Census were received by the Office for National Statistics *(a)* between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2006 and *(b)* between 1 January and 31 March 2007; and how many of those applications were successful in each period. [131972]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 April 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many Freedom of Information Act applications were received by ONS for extracts from the 1921 Census between (a) 1st January 2005 and 31st December 2006 and (b) 1st January 2007 and 31st March 2007; and how many of these applications were successful. (131972)

The Office for National Statistics received 23 and 21 requests for access to 1921 Census returns for these periods, respectively.

In all cases the information requested was withheld under the exemptions available for personal census information.

Child Care Tax Credit

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough have received childcare credits in each year since their introduction. [132642]

Dawn Primarolo: For information on the number of in-work families receiving the child care element of the working tax credit, broken down by region and local authority, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Eltham (Clive Efford) on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 276W.

Estimates for 2003-04 are only available at regional level as the only data available are for a sample of cases. Any estimates would therefore be unreliable at local authority level.

Childbirth

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government Actuary's Department expects the number of live births to be in *(a)* England and *(b)* the UK in each of the next 10 years. [131959]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 April 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what projection has been made of the number of live births in (a) England and (b) the United Kingdom for each of the next ten years. (131959)

The most recent projection of the number of births was produced as part of the 2004-based national population projections published in October 2005. The information requested is available at:

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Population/2004/england/weng04cc.xls for England and

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Population/2004/uk/wuk04cc.xls for the United Kingdom.

The next (2006-based) national population projections are scheduled for publication in October 2007.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many live births took place in England in each year since 1997. [131968]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 April 2007:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many live births have taken place in England in each year since 1997. (131968)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2005. The table below shows the number of live births that occurred in England each year from 1997 to 2005.

Live births that occurred in England, 1997 to 2005

	Live births
1997	609,513
1998	603,293
1999	590,524
2000	573,832
2001	564,871
2002	566,691
2003	590,900
2004	608,347
2005	614,237

Notes:
1. Data show live births occurring each year that were registered in England. The Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953 requires births to be registered in the sub-district in which the baby was born.
2. Data on live births by area of usual residence of mother are routinely published each year in Birth Statistics, Series FM1. Data on live births by area of occurrence are also published but only for maternities taking place in hospitals and not those taking place at home or elsewhere. Hence the figures shown here, based on area of registration, will not exactly match published data.

Childbirth: Registration

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of fraudulent applications for birth certificates in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [132086]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Registrar General, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 April 2007:

As Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question requesting an estimate of the number of fraudulent applications for birth certificates in each of the last four years. (132086)

Current legislation allows individuals, if they are able to provide sufficient information of a particular birth, to obtain a certified copy of that event from either the General Register Office (GRO) or from the local register office. There is therefore no need for an individual to act fraudulently to obtain a birth certificate. However a birth record is not evidence of identity and certificates printed since 1993 contain a warning to that effect.

Very small numbers of births are found to be improperly registered either because no birth event has taken place or the person registering the birth is falsely claiming to be a parent. We are aware of no more than 50 instances of one kind or the other in the past 4 years.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Department. [132191]

John Healey: The Treasury's internal guidance on hospitality at public expense only applies to functions with external guests present and normally takes the form of lunch or dinner. Casual drinks do not qualify for reimbursement.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has a visitors' book or other such log of all visitors. [133432]

John Healey: No.

Economic Growth

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average rate of productivity growth in *(a)* the private manufacturing sector and *(b)* the private services sector in the UK was in each year since May 1997. [133220]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 23 April 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what the average rate of productivity growth in (a) the private manufacturing sector and (b) the private services sector in the UK has been since May. I am replying in her absence. (133220)

The UK does not currently publish Productivity estimates with a public/private split. Details for the whole of Manufacturing and Services can be found on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/productivity.

In response to user demand, as an article in the March 2007 edition of the Economic and Labour Market Review, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has introduced two new experimental series measuring productivity in the market sector. These can be found on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/article.asp?id=1742.

The ONS is also developing productivity estimates for key public services, in particular health, education, adult social care and the administration of social security. The latest information can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/PublicSector/output/default.asp.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of vehicles in band G for vehicle excise duty (VED) which *(a)* will be affected by the increase in duty announced in the Budget and *(b)* are registered each year; and what estimate he has made of the number of vehicles which he expects to be paying band G VED in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [130622]

John Healey: The band G rate of CO_2 emissions graduated vehicle excise duty was introduced in Budget 2006 for cars registered from 23 March 2006 onwards and was increased in Budget 2007 to provide a signal to motorists of the environmental impacts of their potential choice.

It is estimated that approximately 227,000 vehicles will be affected by the Budget 2007 increase in the band G rate of CO_2 emissions graduated vehicle excise duty. This represents the current stock of vehicles in 2006-07.

The most recent projection is that the number of vehicles within band G would be approximately 310,000 in 2007-08, 460,000 in 2008-09, 605,000 in 2009-10, and 740,000 in 2010-11. The number of vehicles in band G will be lower as result Budget 2007 changes, by approximately 18,000 in 2007-08 and 2008-09 and by approximately 23,000 in 2009-10 and 2010-11, than if no change had been made. The growth in the number of low carbon vehicles is projected to increase.

Gift Aid

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and what percentage change he expects in the value of charitable giving using the Gift Aid system in the 2007-08 tax year; and if he will make a statement. [132341]

Dawn Primarolo: For Budget forecasting purposes it was assumed that Gift Aid donations would increase by 5.6 per cent. in 2007-08. This corresponds to an increase in total Gift Aid income for charities of approximately £0.4 billion.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* amount and *(b)* percentage of income charities (i) will receive from tax reclaimed through the Gift Aid system in the 2007-08 tax year if the current level of charitable donations stays the same and (ii) received through Gift Aid in each of the last five tax years; and if he will make a statement. [132342]

Dawn Primarolo: Amounts of repayments to charities of basic rate income tax on Gift Aid donations are published for years up to 2005-06 at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/table10-1.xls

The table will be updated to include the year 2006-07 at the end of April 2007. No estimate has been made of the amount and percentage of income charities will receive from tax reclaimed through the Gift Aid system in the 2007-08 tax year. However, for Budget forecasting purposes it was assumed that Gift Aid donations would increase by 5.6 per cent. in 2007-08.

These amounts are estimated to represent between 1 per cent. and 2 per cent. of total charity income during the last five years.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the effect of reducing basic rate income tax on the amount of gift aid received by charitable organisations; and if he will make a statement. [132343]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government have received several representations regarding the consultation as announced by the Chancellor in the Budget and how that consultation could be best targeted in order to drive up the take up of Gift Aid. A number of meetings have either been held or are planned between officials and sector representative bodies, including the Charity Finance Director's Group, Charity Tax Reform Group and the Institute of Fundraising.

Import Duties

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in import duties was levied on imports to the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of the total was paid to the EU. [132804]

John Healey: The amounts of duties levied on imports to the United Kingdom and the proportions paid to the EU in each of the last 10 years are as follows;

	Import duties levied (£ million)	*Percentage paid to EU*
1997	2,274.0	90
1998	2,119.0	90
1999	1,994.0	90
2000	2,103.6	90
2001	2,109.9	[1]90 & 75
2002	2,044.2	75
2003	1,905.7	75

	Import duties levied (£ million)	Percentage paid to EU
2004	2,064.3	75
2005	2,277.6	75
2006	2,312.1	75

[1] The percentage that member states were obliged to pay to the EU decreased from 90 per cent. to 75 per cent. during 2001. Of the total import duties levied in that year, £344.2 million attracted the 90 per cent. rate and £1,766.7 million the 75 per cent. rate.

Import Duties: Lighting

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tariffs and duties are levied on low energy light bulbs imported into the UK from Asia. [132875]

Dawn Primarolo: The standard customs duty rate levied on low energy light bulbs imported into the UK is 2.7 per cent. In addition, there is value added tax of 17.5 per cent. Imports of these light bulbs originating in certain Asian countries may qualify for a preferential rate of duty of 0 per cent. The list of potential qualifying countries are:

Brunei - Darussalam
Cambodia
Indonesia
Laos
Bangladesh
Bhutan Pakistan
India
Maldives
Malaysia
Philippines
Vietnam
Thailand
Nepal
Sri Lanka.

However, an anti-dumping duty of 66.1 per cent. has been imposed on one type of low energy light bulb when the country of origin is China. The particular product is an electronic compact fluorescent discharge lamp functioning on alternating current (including electronic compact fluorescent discharge lamps functioning on both alternating and direct current) with one or more glass tubes, with all lighting elements and electronic components fixed to the lamp foot, or integrated in the lamp foot. Anti-dumping duty is an import duty imposed in addition to normal customs duty and applies across the EU.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue implications of a 1 per cent. change in the basic rate of income tax in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [131840]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested can be found in the following table.

	Cost/yield (£ billion)
2007-08	3.7
2008-09	4.5
2009-10	4.7
2010-11	4.9

Figures provided are on an accruals basis.

The estimates are based on the 2004-05 survey of personal incomes projected forward against an indexed baseline which includes the reforms to simplify the income tax and National Insurance system announced at Budget 2007.

The figures exclude any estimate of behavioral response to the tax change which could be significant given the scale of the change.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of the removal of the 10 pence tax rate on the incomes of people aged *(a)* between 60 and 65 years and *(b)* 65 years and older. [132170]

Dawn Primarolo: The removal of the 10 pence tax rate was part of a package of reform announced in Budget 2007, which also included reducing the basic rate of income tax from 22p to 20p, increasing aged personal allowances, aligning the Upper Earnings Limit with (an increased) higher rate threshold and increases to the working tax credit and child tax credit.

As a result of this package, we estimate that on average households including someone aged 60 to 64 will be over £27 a year better off in 2009-10, while households with someone aged 65 or more will be on average £72 a year better off (in 2007-08 prices).

Income Tax: Tax Thresholds

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the number of income tax payers who would be removed from taxation as a result of raising the income tax threshold to *(a)* £7,500, *(b)* £8,000, *(c)* £8,500, *(d)* £9,000, *(e)* £9,500 and *(f)* £10,000 in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement; [131841]

(2) if he will estimate the revenue implications of increasing the personal tax free allowance to *(a)* £7,500, *(b)* £8,000, *(c)* £8,500, *(d)* £9,000, *(e)* £9,500 and *(f)* £10,000 in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [131842]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested can be found in the following tables .

Taxpayers removed from income tax

Number: (£ million)

	Personal allowance					
	7,500	8,000	8,500	9,000	9,500	10,000
2007-08	2.6	3.3	4.1	4.9	5.7	6.4
2008-09	2.3	2.9	3.4	3.9	4.6	5.4
2009-10	2.1	2.7	3.1	3.6	4.2	5.0
2010-11	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.4	3.9	4.6

Cost of increasing the personal allowance

(£ billion)

	Personal Allowance					
	7,500	8,000	8,500	9,000	9,500	10,000
2007-08	13.9	17.0	20.1	23.1	26.0	28.8
2008-09	12.6	15.5	18.3	21.0	24.0	26.9
2009-10	11.9	14.8	17.6	20.4	23.3	26.3
2010-11	11.1	14.0	17.0	19.8	22.6	25.7

Personal allowances for people aged 65 and over have been aligned with the ordinary personal allowance when exceeded.

The estimates are based on the 2004-05 survey of personal incomes projected forward against an indexed baseline which includes the reforms to simplify the income tax and National Insurance system announced at Budget 2007.

The figures exclude any estimate of behavioral response to the tax change which could be significant given the scale of the change.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the reduction in revenue from raising the 40 per cent. tax rate threshold for income tax to £50,000 of taxable income in a full tax year. [132814]

Dawn Primarolo: Raising the higher rate threshold to £50,000 for 2007-08 would cost £5.3 billion.

This estimate is based on the 2004-05 survey of personal Incomes projected forward in line with Budget 2007 assumptions.

The figure excludes any estimate of behavioural response which could be significant given the scale of the change.

Inheritance Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost of raising the inheritance tax threshold to £500,000 in each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [131838]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 18 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 692W.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the reduction in revenue from raising the inheritance tax threshold to £1 million in a full tax year. [132812]

Dawn Primarolo: Raising the inheritance tax nil rate band to £1,000,000 from 2008-09 would incur a full year cost of around £3.1 billion.

Local Government Finance: Scotland

John Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice HM Revenue and Customs gave to Sir Peter Burt's Local Government Finance Review Committee on the implementation of a local income tax for the 32 local authorities in Scotland. [133522]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) on 9 October 2006, column 285-286W.

Low Incomes

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of income of each of the four lowest earning deciles which is made up of *(a)* benefits and tax credits and *(b)* earnings from work. [132125]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 April 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the proportion of income of each of the four lowest earning deciles which is made up of (a) benefits and tax credits and (b) earnings from work. (132125).

Estimates of income received by households from different sources are provided in the ONS analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income'. The latest analysis for 2004/05 was published on the National Statistics website on 12th May 2006 at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits. The analysis for 2005/06 will be published on 17th May. This annual publication is based on data from the Expenditure and Food Survey, which is a sample survey covering approximately 7,000 households in the UK.

The attached table shows income from work and income from benefits, as a proportion of gross income, by income decile group. The income decile groups are determined by ranking households according to their equivalised disposable income. Equivalised incomes are standardised to adjust for the different sizes and compositions of households, and equivalised disposable income (rather than just earned income, or any other definition of income) is the most widely used measure of living standards, and the commonly used basis for income distribution statistics. While this equivalisation reduces the extent to which household size in particular varies across the income distribution, there is still considerable variation in respect of other household characteristics, for example the age of the household reference person (households where the household reference person is old are more concentrated towards the bottom of the distribution).

Income from work includes income from employment, imputed income from benefits in kind (mainly company cars), and income from self-employment. Cash benefits include things like income support, pension credit, child benefit, incapacity benefit, the state retirement pension, and tax credits.

Average incomes from work[1] and benefits[2] as a proportion of gross income[3], by household income decile—United Kingdom, 2004-05

As a percentage of gross income[3]

	Decile groups of households ranked by equivalised disposable income										*All households*
	Bottom	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*	
Income from work[1]	24	33	46	56	68	72	79	84	89	89	76
Income from cash benefits[2]	65	57	42	31	21	16	10	6	3	2	14

[1] Income from work includes income from employment, imputed income from benefits in kind, and income from self-employment.
[2] Income from cash benefits includes only those tax credit payments which are classified as a benefit, rather than a negative tax. See background notes.
[3] Gross income additionally includes income from occupational pensions, investment income, and other miscellaneous income.
Source:
"The effects of taxes and benefits on household income 2004/05", ONS.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal incentives exist to stimulate the supply of land suitable for start-ups and small and medium sized enterprises in the manufacturing sector. [131811]

John Healey: The Government have announced a package of reforms and proposals to stimulate land supply, including a wide range of complementary fiscal measures.

As announced in Budget 2007, from 11 April this year the business premises renovation allowance (BPRA) will provide 100 per cent. capital allowances for the renovation of commercial properties in the assisted areas that have stood empty for more than one year.

Budget also published a consultation on the reform of land remediation relief (LRR), with a view to extending the scope of this 150 per cent. capital allowance for the cost of cleaning brownfield land to a wider range of contaminated and derelict sites. The aim of these reforms is to support new development by improving economic viability of bringing contaminated and long-term derelict sites back into use. These measures are targeted at stimulating land supply for manufacturers and other businesses in low demand and hard to remediate areas respectively.

Following representations from the Federation of Small Businesses and recommendations from both Kate Barker and Sir Michael Lyons the Government also propose to reform the reliefs to empty property rates. This measure will increase incentives to reuse, redevelop or sell unused land and property, with significant benefits to companies that are expanding or entering the market in the form of reduced rents or prices.

Allied to these reforms the Government have announced their intention to review the tax treatment of penalty payments made by tenants who need to prematurely terminate a lease contract. This is an important issue for all business tenants but in particular for small and medium sized companies where flexible property use is important for growth but has to date been faced with weak incentives from the tax system.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people newly entitled to working tax credits as a consequence of the announcements made in the 2007 Budget earn the national minimum wage. [132121]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on which to base such an estimate are not available.

Personal Income

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what change there has been as a result of tax and benefit changes in average levels of income for *(a)* lone parents in work, *(b)* single earner couples with children and *(c)* two earner couples with children since 1997. [133197]

Dawn Primarolo: As a result of changes to the tax and benefit system between 1997-98 and April 2009, lone parents in work are, on average £2,650 a year better off, with net income of £22,600, single earner couples with children are, on average £1,925 a year better off, with net income of £34,150, and two earner couples with children are £770 a year better off, with net income of £42,200.

These results are in 2007-08 prices, using the Expenditure and Food Survey.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the net effect of tax and benefit changes since 1997 on *(a)* a lone parent, *(b)* married couples with a single wage earner in work and *(c)* two wage earner couples both in work with (i) one child and (ii) two children. [132541]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 19 April 2007]:* The table illustrates the net effect of tax and benefit changes introduced since 1997, including changes announced in Budget 2007, on *(a)* a lone parent, *(b)* a single earner married couple and *(c)* a dual earner married couple.

Examples are given for each household with (i) one child and (ii) two children.

Example uses estimate of full-time male and female median earnings In 2007-08 (for the dual earner couple, these earnings are shared equally). All estimates are in 2007-08 prices.

Impact of changes to the tax and benefit system on net income before housing costs, 1997-98 to 2009-10, in 2007-08 prices (£ per year)

	Lone parent	*Single earner couple*	*Dual earner couple*
1 child	740	740	635
2 children	1,600	1,600	1,500

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Population

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the UK population was in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the number of people who emigrated from the UK in each year. [132807]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 23 April 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question concerning what the UK population was in each of the last three years and what estimate has been made of the number of people who emigrated from the UK in each year. I am replying in her absence. (132807)

The latest available population estimates for the UK are the mid-2005 population estimates. The mid-2003, 2004 and 2005 estimates are shown below in Table 1. The latest available Total International Migration estimates for outflows are the mid-2005 estimates. The mid- 2003, 2004 and 2005 estimates are shown below in Table 2.

Table 1: Total UK population, mid-2003 to mid-2005

	Total population
Mid-2003	59,554,000
Mid-2004	59,834,000
Mid-2005	60,209,000

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Total international migration estimates of out-flows (migrants leaving the UK) by mid-year: 2002-03 to 2004-05

	Migration estimates
2002-03	358,000
2003-04	361,000
2004-05	352,000

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Taxation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* taxpayers submitting tax returns have only an income tax liability; and if he will make a statement. [131837]

Dawn Primarolo: Individuals who submit income tax self assessment returns may have a liability to income tax and/or capital gains tax or no tax liability at all. Estimates for the 2004-05 tax year (the latest full year available) are provided in the following table

	Number of returns (million)	*Returns with an income tax liability only (million)*	*Proportion of cases with an income tax liability only (percentage)*
All individuals	8.1	6.6	81
Pensioners	1.36	1.1	83

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the assumptions outlined in Chapter 4 of Long Term Public Finance Report 2006, what estimates he has made for the lifetime *(a)* tax revenues paid by, *(b)* income and *(c)* consumption of Government services, broken down by type, of (i) a representative man and (ii) a representative woman born in (A) 2000, (B) 1990, (C) 1980, (D) 1970, (E) 1960, (F) 1950, (G) 1940, (H) 1930, (I) 1920 and (J) 1910. [132568]

Dawn Primarolo: The spending and revenue projections given in the Long-term Public Finance Report are purely forward looking. The report does not include the type of historical analysis of lifetime tax revenues, income or consumption of Government services that would be required to make the estimations outlined in the question.

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the percentage change in the volume of taxation was in each of the last 10 years. [132803]

Dawn Primarolo: Historic tax receipts data are published monthly in table C1 of the Public Finances Databank, the latest version of which can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/finance_spending_statistics/pubsec_finance/psf_statistics.cfm

The series which most closely reflects the volume of taxation is 'Net taxes and National Insurance Contributions'.

Taxation: Biofuels

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the tax subsidies which are paid to encourage the growing of bio-fuels; and if he will make a statement. [132774]

John Healey: Fiscal support for the uptake of biofuels is provided within fuel duty and duty differentials have been in place for biodiesel since 2002 and bioethanol since 2005. Budget 2007 announced the extension of the 20 pence per litre duty incentive until 2009-10, offering further certainty to the industry.

To encourage the development of biofuels the Government are introducing from 2008 a renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO), which will require transport fuel suppliers to ensure a set percentage of their sales are from a renewable source.

Duty differentials and the RTFO are stimulating investment in processing capacity. While this does not necessarily mean that feedstocks will be sourced from within the UK, it will provide additional local demand for UK agricultural production. The UK is aiming to move away from direct subsidies for agricultural production, as set out in the 2005 DEFRA-HMT publication "A Vision for the Common Agricultural Policy".

Taxation: Charities

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the tax benefits given to an organisation would be affected if it were recognised as a charity by *(a)* the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, but not the Charity Commission and *(b)* the Charity Commission, but not the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. [132933]

Dawn Primarolo: A UK charity will be entitled to tax reliefs if it qualifies for charitable status under the law of England and Wales. In the majority of cases this test will be satisfied by a charity recognised in either England and Wales or Scotland. If a different approach to a charity's status were to be taken by either regulator then the point of reference for tax

purposes (and tax purposes only) would be the provisions made in the Charities Act 2006 and established case law. These provisions, at sections 80(4) and 80(6), make it clear that taxation is a reserved matter and that for tax purposes the definition of a charity in England and Wales will apply across the UK.

Taxation: Electoral Register

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 284W, on taxation: electoral register, whether *(a)* tax self-assessment forms, *(b)* form DOM1 and *(c)* other tax forms ask claimants whether they are resident electors in the UK. [132303]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs does not ask for information on whether individuals are registered to vote in the UK on *(a)* tax self-assessment forms, *(b)* form DOM1 or *(c)* other tax forms.

Taxation: Environment Protection

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the revenue derived from environmental taxation was used to fund government initiatives on climate change in each year since 2001. [132951]

John Healey: The revenue from environmental taxes is not hypothecated to spending on climate change. However, as the following table shows, central and local government spending on environmental protection, including measures to adapt to and mitigate climate change, has exceeded the revenue derived from environmental taxes in each and every year since 2001.

£ million

Financial year	*Environmental tax revenues*[1]	*Total spending on environmental protection*[2]
2001-02	1,057	5,395
2002-03	1,617	5,916
2003-04	1,778	6,119
2004-05	1,770	6,877
2005-06	1,883	8,548

[1] Includes landfill tax, climate change levy etc.

Source:
HM Revenue and Customs
Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2006. HM Treasury

Taxation: Foreigners

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of permanent foreign residents in the UK who do not pay UK taxes; [131815]

(2) what estimate he has made of the loss of revenue caused by the non-payment of UK taxes by permanent foreign residents in each of the last five years; [131816]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of Russian citizens living permanently in the UK who do not pay UK taxes. [132015]

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of permanent foreign residents in the UK who do not pay UK taxes. [132658]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Taxation: Overseas Residence

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have non-domiciliary tax status; how many people have *(a)* claimed and *(b)* been refused such status in the last 10 years; what the total amount of tax paid by non-domiciled taxpayers was in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of the tax forgone in 2006-07 as a result of the granting of non-domiciliary tax status. [129125]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 22 March 2007]:* No overall figure for the number of individuals with non-domiciliary tax status, the number of people claiming non-domiciliary tax status or the number of people refused such status is available.

And no estimates have been made of the tax foregone in 2006-07 as a result of granting non-domicile tax status. Information is not held on overseas income and gains that do not give rise to a tax liability in the UK.

Teenage Pregnancy

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many births there were to mothers aged *(a)* 19, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 17, *(d)* 16, *(e)* 15, *(f)* 14 and *(g)* 13 years old in (i) each Northern Ireland health board, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) England in each of the last 10 years. [132150]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 23 April 2007:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about how many births there were to mothers aged (a) 19, (b) 18, (c) 17, (d) 16, (e) 15, (f) 14 and (g) 13 years old in (i) each Northern Ireland health board, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) England in each of the last 10 years. (132150)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2005. The attached table provides the figures requested for the years 1996 to 2005.

Live births to mothers aged 13 to 19[1] in Northern Ireland Health Boards, Wales, Scotland and England[2,3], 1996 to 2005[4]

		Northern Ireland Health and Social Service Board							
	Mother's age	*Eastern*	*Northern*	*Southern*	*Western*	*Total*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*England*
1996	13	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	30
	14	9	3	0	1	13	27	23	232
	15	15	13	4	8	40	113	134	1,218
	16	81	35	24	20	160	342	494	4,152
	17	137	83	45	60	325	691	1,001	8,690

Live births to mothers aged 13 to 19[1] in Northern Ireland Health Boards, Wales, Scotland and England[2,3], 1996 to 2005[4]

		Northern Ireland Health and Social Service Board							
	Mother's age	*Eastern*	*Northern*	*Southern*	*Western*	*Total*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*England*
	18	195	77	74	79	425	886	1,343	11,885
	19	253	134	97	134	618	1,196	1,546	15,188
	13 to 19	690	346	244	302	1,582	3,256	4,544	41,395
1997	13	0	0	0	0	0		2	26
	14	2	1	0	0	3	18	23	239
	15	21	6	2	7	36	106	153	1,207
	16	80	32	16	23	151	359	505	4,140
	17	142	103	43	59	347	700	1,101	9,091
	18	242	112	76	83	513	1,025	1,390	12,995
	19	242	121	96	135	594	1,144	1,661	15,301
	13 to 19	729	375	233	307	1,644	3,352	4,835	42,999
1998	13	0	1	0	0	1	2	5	37
	14	3	1	2	2	8	13	22	232
	15	16	16	5	10	47	98	110	1,156
	16	60	39	18	29	146	356	496	3,916
	17	145	70	54	66	335	733	1,112	9,229
	18	254	126	107	104	591	1,079	1,423	13,491
	19	264	135	100	108	607	1,229	1,634	16,694
	13 to 19	742	388	286	319	1,735	3,510	4,802	44,755
1999	13	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	33
	14	3	1	2	0	6	18	18	210
	15	28	10	9	9	56	79	123	1,125
	16	69	29	18	34	150	311	420	3,791
	17	143	86	52	68	349	764	1,050	8,683
	18	235	136	85	109	565	991	1,501	13,572
	19	275	146	104	139	664	1,305	1,642	17,472
	13 to 19	754	408	270	359	1,791	3,470	4,755	44,886
2000	13	0	1	0	0	1	3	2	34
	14	3	4	0	3	10	22	19	223
	15	19	10	9	9	47	79	115	1,107
	16	91	30	16	27	164	284	370	3,539
	17	137	73	46	54	310	671	954	8,232
	18	215	85	87	95	482	1,036	1,382	12,685
	19	257	141	91	111	600	1,209	1,757	16,696
	13 to 19	722	344	249	299	1,614	3,304	4,599	42,516
2001	13	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	36
	14	2	1	0	0	3	14	16	227
	15	24	5	2	6	37	77	115	1,061
	16	61	24	26	18	129	263	410	3,436
	17	127	67	51	34	279	630	868	7,956
	18	209	104	84	94	491	993	1,339	12,162
	19	229	149	91	115	584	1,189	1,695	16,116
	13 to 19	652	350	255	267	1,524	3,167	4,444	40,994
2002	13	1	0	0	1	2	6	2	40
	14	1	1	0	1	3	13	17	201
	15	14	10	2	5	31	77	91	999
	16	54	22	16	21	113	254	358	3,349

Live births to mothers aged 13 to 19[1] in Northern Ireland Health Boards, Wales, Scotland and England[2], 1996 to 2005[3]

		Northern Ireland Health and Social Service Board							
	Mother's age	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	Total	Wales	Scotland	England
	17	136	60	43	63	302	591	915	7,989
	18	200	119	76	95	490	904	1,247	12,081
	19	235	135	85	106	561	1,117	1,565	15,823
	13 to 19	641	347	222	292	1,502	2,962	4,195	40,482
2003	13	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	24
	14	2	0	0	2	4	10	13	176
	15	9	9	7	4	29	56	89	969
	16	62	22	20	17	121	230	350	3,390
	17	125	46	44	52	267	582	906	8,096
	18	238	99	62	72	471	969	1,285	12,470
	19	251	138	99	103	591	1,095	1,509	16,150
	13 to 19	687	314	232	250	1,483	2,944	4,155	41,275
2004	13	0	1	2	0	3	1	1	23
	14	1	0	0	0	1	5	12	178
	15	21	7	4	3	35	61	83	951
	16	52	30	22	19	133	241	344	3,392
	17	122	63	37	50	272	612	853	8,211
	18	221	97	75	75	468	954	1,290	12,734
	19	256	136	87	95	574	1,239	1,589	16,483
	13 to 19	673	344	227	242	1,486	3,113	4,172	41,972
2005	13	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	14
	14	3	2	0	0	5	16	16	173
	15	17	7	1	4	29	70	86	907
	16	51	29	14	16	110	249	322	3,264
	17	134	54	52	45	285	609	853	8,074
	18	202	86	65	60	413	922	1,280	12,457
	19	254	121	80	97	552	1,232	1,612	16,826
	13 to 19	661	299	213	222	1,395	3,099	4,171	41,715

[1] Age refers to age at the time of the birth.
[2] Data for Northern Ireland exclude births to mothers not usually resident in Northern Ireland at the time of birth. Similarly, data for England and Wales exclude births to mothers not usually resident in England and Wales. Data for Scotland include births to mothers not usually resident in Scotland. For this reason the number of births shown here will not exactly sum to total UK births at ages 13 to 19.
[3] Births registered in Northern Ireland have been allocated to Health and Social Services Boards according to the usual residence of the mother. Births registered in England and Wales are assigned to England or Wales according to usual residence of the mother.
[4] For Northern Ireland and Scotland, figures relate to the number of live births registered in each calendar year. For England and Wales, figures relate to the number of live births occurring in each calendar year.

Source:
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency; Office for National Statistics; General Register Office for Scotland.

VAT: Sunscreens

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent consideration he has given to the removal of VAT from sun care products; and what estimate he has made of the long term effects of such a measure on NHS costs. [132581]

Dawn Primarolo: Under the VAT agreements with our European partners, signed by successive Governments, we can retain our existing VAT zero rates, but we may not extend them or introduce new ones. It is therefore not possible to remove VAT entirely from sun care products. The same European VAT agreements do allow for a reduced rate of VAT of not less than 5 per cent to be applied to sun care items that are 'pharmaceutical products', and the case for such a VAT reduction for sun care products was carefully considered as part of the Budget process.

To date we have been sparing in our use of reduced rates of VAT and have only introduced them where we are convinced they offer the best targeted and most cost-effective support for our objectives, when considered against alternative policy instruments. We consider that the most effective approach is the promotion of the broad range of precautions necessary for sun protection, not just sun care products, for example through Government support for the 'Sunsmart' advice and awareness raising campaign.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason able-bodied people under the age of 25 years without children are not able to claim any tax credits regardless of their income levels. [132934]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 16 April to my hon. Friend the Member for Dundee West (Mr. McGovern), *Official Report*, column. 422W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish the *(a)* 2005-06 child and working tax credits finalised annual awards statistics and the *(b)* 2005-06 child and working tax credits finalised annual awards, supplement on payments statistics. [133419]

Dawn Primarolo: The HMRC publications referred to will be published on 22 May 2007.

Working Tax Credit

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what increases in take-up of working tax credit he expects in each of the next three years. [132038]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* The Government do not make forward projections for take-up rates.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are receiving working tax credit who do not have any children. [132049]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* Provisional estimates for the number of in-work families with working tax credit awards that do not have any children, as at December 2006, are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. December 2006". This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to change his policy on the eligibility for working tax credits of those aged under 25 years who are without children and not disabled. [132243]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government currently have no plans to change the eligibility criteria for working tax credits.

Working Tax Credit: Prisoners

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people serving custodial sentences in the UK received working tax credits in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of such payments. [133247]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1741W.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 24 April 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received regarding planning law as it affects telecommunications masts. [132788]

Meg Munn: Since 1 January 2007 I have answered four parliamentary questions relating to planning and telecommunications and received 21 letters from MPs on this subject. I have not had any external meetings to discuss this issue in the corresponding time period.

In addition, my officials have dealt with a number of queries on this issue from members of the public and have attended a meeting of the Electronic Communications Working Group at which representatives of the telecommunications industry were present. The meeting was one in an ongoing series of meetings to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Care Homes: Conditions of Employment

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps have been taken to enforce Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) protection for residential home staff transferred from local government to private employment; and if she will make a statement. [132248]

Mr. Woolas: Subject to certain qualifying conditions, the "Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006" apply when a business or undertaking, or part of one, is transferred to a new employer; or when a 'service provision change' takes place (for example, where a contractor takes on a contract to provide a service for a client from another contractor).

These two circumstances are jointly categorised as 'relevant transfers'. Once a relevant transfer has occurred if any employee considers that their contractual rights have been infringed they may be able to seek redress through the civil courts or the employment tribunals.

Council Tax: Second Homes

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to amend the system of council tax to allow for the levying of a local supplement on council tax for second homes in areas where they represent a significant proportion of housing. [132927]

Mr. Woolas: We have already given local authorities flexibility to reduce the council tax discount offered on second homes to 10 per cent. In 2005-06 that raised an additional £92 million to spend on local priorities. We have no plans to make further changes.

Fire Services: Radio

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her latest estimate is of the level of coverage by percentage landmass and signal strength provided by the Firelink digital radio system *(a)* in each fire service and *(b)* by region; and if she will place in the Library a map detailing such information. [133679]

Angela E. Smith: Once the Firelink service is fully rolled out the contract will provide coverage averaging 98 per cent. in England, 95 per cent. in Wales and 88 per cent. in Scotland, which is less populated and more mountainous. The following tables list the contracted coverage by fire and rescue service area and by region. These modelled forecasts will be validated through tests in each fire and rescue service prior to Firelink becoming operational.

A map of Great Britain highlighting the extent of guaranteed coverage from Firelink per FRS boundary has also been supplied and will be placed in the Library as requested.

FRS	*Percentage covered*
Avon	98.73
Bedfordshire	99.71
Berkshire	98.39
Buckinghamshire	99.13
Cambridgeshire	99.78
Central Scotland	91.20
Cheshire	99.12
Cleveland	98.94
Cornwall	97.83
Cumbria	90.19
Derbyshire	98.78
Devon	95.32
Dorset	98.65
Dumfries and Galloway	88.90
Durham	98.88
East Sussex	98.31
Essex	99.75
Fife	99.08
Gloucestershire	98.11
Grampian	97.81
Greater London	99.94
Greater Manchester	99.16
Hampshire	99.02
Hereford and Worcester	99.02
Hertfordshire	99.70
Highlands and Islands	73.92
Humberside	98.96
Isle of Wight	99.30
Kent	99.48
Lancashire	96.93
Leicestershire	99.68
Lincolnshire	99.50
Lothian and Borders	96.51

FRS	Percentage covered
Merseyside	99.88
Mid and West Wales	95.36
Norfolk	99.87
North Wales	92.10
North Yorkshire	92.49
Northamptonshire	98.60
Northumberland	93.36
Nottinghamshire	99.81
Oxfordshire	99.62
Shropshire	98.80
Somerset	93.49
South Wales	99.43
South Yorkshire	97.18
Staffordshire	99.48
Strathclyde	89.17
Suffolk	99.85
Surrey	99.61
Tayside	71.37
Tyne and Wear	99.96
Warwickshire	99.93
West Midlands	99.99
West Sussex	99.66
West Yorkshire	98.47
Wiltshire	97.66

Firelink region	Percentage covered
South West	96.65
South East	99.22
London	99.94
East of England	99.81
West Midlands	99.31
East Midlands	99.32
North East	95.72
North West	94.39
Yorkshire and Humberside	95.26
Wales	94.94
South West Scotland	89.08
South East Scotland	95.48
North East Scotland	85.49
Highlands and Islands	73.92

Note: In practice, coverage may be higher than contracted values for technical reasons. The signal strength varies due to the distance from the radio base station and other environmental factors. For the values generated in the above tables, the signal strength will range from -40dBm in the close proximity to a transmitter to a level of -103dBm at the edge of the radio cell.

Government Office for London

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget was of the Government office for London in each year between 1997 and 2006; and how many civil servants were employed by that office in each year. [132828]

Mr. Woolas: The Government office for London's running cost expenditure is as follows:

Year	Budget	£ million Status
1998-99	16.0	Outturn
1999-2000	15.0	Outturn
2000-01	14.7	Outturn
2001-02	13.2	Outturn
2002-03	14.1	Outturn
2003-04	16.7	Outturn
2004-05	18.9	Outturn
2005-06	18.5	Outturn
2006-07	17.6	Outturn
2007-08	16.4	Budget

Figures for 1996-97 and 1997-98 are not held.

The Government office for London staff in post figures from 1997 are as follows:

As at April	Number
1997[1]	274
1998[1]	305
1999	390
2000	370
2001	240
2002	260
2003	288
2004	325
2005	308
2006	303
2007[1]	268

[1] March figures

Holocaust Memorial Day

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on Holocaust Memorial Day in each year since its institution; and if she will make a statement. [132400]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Holocaust Memorial Day was first held in January 2001 and has since been held on 27 January every year. Up to 2005, the responsibility for delivering Holocaust Memorial Day lay with the Home Office, working in conjunction with the Department for Education and Skills and a wide range of individuals and organisations involved in Holocaust remembrance and education and other related issues. The approximate spending for 2002-04 was £280,000.

In 2005 the responsibility for organising the Holocaust Memorial Day was passed over to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT). The HMDT receives a £500,000 annual grant from Communities and Local Government. This grant enables the HMDT to deliver the Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration event, on behalf of the Government, and also a year long programme with local communities on the lessons learnt from the Holocaust and its continuing relevance today.

Local Authorities: Complaints

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints the local government ombudsman with responsibility for the North of England received in each of the last five years against local authorities, broken down by local authority; and if she will make a statement. [132841]

Mr. Woolas: This information has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Administration of Justice: Freemasonry

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what provisions exist for *(a)* magistrates, *(b)* judges and *(c)* members of tribunals to declare freemasonry membership on appointment. [133302]

Ms Harman: Applicants for the lay magistracy are required to declare whether or not they are freemasons. Those recommended for appointment, or appointed by, the Lord Chancellor to a judicial office in the courts and tribunals for the first time are also required to declare whether or not they are freemasons.

Care Homes: Human Rights

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will bring forward measures to extend the protections of the Human Rights Act 1998 to residents of care homes who are *(a)* publicly and *(b)* privately or self-funded. [130802]

Vera Baird: Under the Human Rights Act 1998 it is unlawful for a public authority to act incompatibly with the Convention rights. For these purposes a "public authority" includes any person or body who is exercising functions of a public nature. Local authorities have a statutory duty to make arrangements for the provision of care and accommodation to those in need of it by reason of age, illness or disability. Individuals who are assessed to be in need of care may be placed in a care home run by the local authority itself, but many are placed in homes run by private providers. Those who are placed in care homes by local authorities (including homes that are privately run) can enforce their rights against the local authority because the authority is clearly a "public authority" for the purposes of the Human Rights Act.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs is planning to intervene in a case which will be heard by the House of Lords on 30 April 2007 to clarify whether a private care home provider is also a "public authority" for the purposes of the Human Rights Act when it provides accommodation and care to residents who have been placed there by a local authority. If that is found to be the case, then residents who are placed by local authorities in private care homes will be able directly to enforce their rights against a private care home provider.

The Government have no plans to extend the coverage of the Human Rights Act to self-funded residents of care homes, since the Act does not apply to relationships which do not engage public functions.

Civil Proceedings: Equal Pay

Mr. Byers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will take steps *(a)* to ensure that agreements entered into between solicitors and their clients in equal pay cases do not undermine the securing of a mediated settlement and *(b)* to stop solicitors imposing a financial penalty on their clients in non-contentious cases. [132821]

Bridget Prentice: The regulation of agreements between solicitors and their clients is a matter for the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). The SRA has strict rules about the information that solicitors should give to their clients about costs and all other charges; and about setting out the options for settling their disputes. Solicitors are also under a duty to act in the best interests of their clients.

Concerns about the conduct of solicitors in equal pay cases, or any other type of case, should be brought to the SRA's attention.

Coroners

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what public rights of access there are to written material used in the proceedings of coroners' inquests; and if she will make a statement. [133531]

Ms Harman: All inquests are held in public unless the coroner considers that it would be in the interest of national security to exclude the public. The press often attend inquests and report details but there is no public right of access to written material used in inquests.

Law: Students

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the Law Society on the funding of legal studies students. [133484]

Bridget Prentice: While there have been no specific discussions between the Law Society and my Department on this topic, I am aware that there are a number of different methods of funding for legal studies students.

These include bursaries from the Law Society, bank loans or career development loans and sponsorship from solicitors' firms.

Legal Aid

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of solicitors firms which were unable to complete the new unified contract for legal aid as of 1 April 2007. [132786]

Vera Baird: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) extended the deadline for signature to 2 April 2007. As of 3 April, approximately 2,390 of 2,532 unified contracts had been signed and returned to the LSC by civil providers. This represents 97 per cent. of not-for-profit organisations and 94 per cent. of solicitors. Overall, 5 per cent. of providers did not sign. There are also likely to be many more sub-contractors who are not required to sign the unified contract, but who provide legal aid services.

That a small proportion of providers declined to sign is not unusual, as it is normal for there to be some degree of turnover when new contracts are introduced. The LSC will shortly be providing details of a new civil bid round as part of the Community Legal Service Strategy for improving access to joined up services.

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of solicitors who will cease taking on legal aid work in each of the next three years. [132970]

Vera Baird: A consultation recently closed for criminal legal aid, which included consideration of whether a minimum contract size should be introduced. No decision has yet been taken, but should a minimum contract size be implemented, it will have the effect of reducing the number of firms undertaking criminal legal aid work.

During the most recent contracting round, at the beginning of April 2007, 94 per cent. of solicitors providing civil legal aid services signed and returned their contracts indicating their wish to continue taking on legal aid work.

Welfare Tax Credits: Fraud

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many county court judgments were made against recipients of tax credits in respect of their claims for credits in each of the last 24 months. [133418]

Ms Harman: Information on the number of county court judgments made against recipients of tax credits in respect of their claims for credits in each of the last 24 months is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Broadcasting

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what methods those eligible for the targeted assistance scheme for the digital switchover have been identified in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Cheadle constituency. [132495]

Mr. Woodward: Targeted assistance will be available to all households with one person aged 75 or over or with a severe disability or registered partially-blind or registered partially-sighted. The Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Bill is currently going through Parliament. If this becomes law, the operator of the Digital Switchover Help Scheme will use Department for Work and Pensions and local authority databases to identify those eligible.

Food: Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's policy is on a voluntary ban on advertising unhealthy foods near schools. [133652]

Mr. Woodward: At present there are no rules governing the advertisement of food and soft drink products near schools. However, the Government would always encourage individual companies to show responsibility in choosing where to place adverts.

The industry self regulated non-broadcast advertising rules, relating to the advertising of food and soft drink products to children, were recently strengthened by the Committee for Advertising Practice (CAP) we welcome this commitment by the industry to protect the health of our children. The Government are also committed to monitoring the impact of these and other measures, across all media, in changing the nature and balance of food promotion to children.

Gambling Act 2005

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what process has been put in place to enable Ministers to *(a)* exercise political oversight and *(b)* monitor the progress of the implementation plan for the Gambling Act 2005; [132795]

(2) on what dates since the start of 2007 she has received reports on the progress of the implementation plan for the Gambling Act 2005. [132796]

Tessa Jowell: My Department has put in place a robust programme management and reporting structure to support implementation of the Gambling Act 2005.

In addition to formal progress reports, the most recent of which was provided in March 2007, Ministers hold regular meetings with officials on key implementation matters.

Ministers also hold quarterly meetings with the Chair and Chief Executive of the Gambling Commission as well as frequent meetings with representatives of industry, local government, and other key stakeholders. Officials also chair a number of stakeholder groups including quarterly meetings of the Community Liaison Group and Industry Liaison Group, as well as a monthly communications group to address application rates and other issues arising during the transitional period.

It remains the Government's intention to bring the Gambling Act fully into force by 1 September 2007.

Gambling: Licensing

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assumptions her Department has made on the number of applications for operator licences under the Gambling Act 2005 that will be made by the end of April 2007 deadline by existing operators in order to secure continuation rights; and how many such applications the Gambling Commission has received, broken down by category of licence. [132797]

Tessa Jowell: The Gambling Commission's estimated number of existing operators who, in order to secure continuation rights, are encouraged to apply for an operating licence to the Gambling Commission by 27 April is approximately 2,400. At 20 April 885 operating licence applications had been made, which equates to about 37 per cent. of that estimate. However, the number of operators does not necessarily equate to the number of applications that will be received.

All operators are entitled to make applications after 27 April and the Gambling Commission will process them in time for 1 September.

The breakdown of non-remote operating licence applications received to 20 April by sector is:

Non remote operator category	Applications received by 20 April 2007
Casinos	25
Bingo	28
General betting	485
Pool betting	0
Betting intermediary	1
Adult gaming centres	124
Family entertainment centres	25
Gaming machines	19
Gambling software	1
Lottery managers	2
Society lotteries	7
Total non-remote	717

The breakdown of remote operating licence applications received to 20 April by sector is:

Remote operator category	Applications received by 20 April 2007
Casinos	1
Bingo	0
General betting	7
Pool betting	2
Betting intermediary	1
Gaming machines	0
Gambling software	1
Lottery managers	1
Society lotteries	0
Total remote	13

Not yet allocated—155

Licensed Premises

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licensed premises are still to receive a paper licence in *(a)* Guildford, *(b)* Surrey and *(c)* England; and if she will make a statement. [131991]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not held centrally. Feedback from stakeholders suggests only a small number of licences remain to be issued.

Licensed Premises: Recycling

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment her Department has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* environmental effect of using plastic glasses in licensed premises; and if she will make a statement. [132762]

Mr. Woodward: The Department has made no assessment of the costs or environmental impact of using plastic drinking vessels. It is for individual licensed premises to decide whether to use alternatives to glassware.

The use of plastic containers and toughened glass can help promote the licensing objectives of public safety and the prevention of crime and disorder. However, as the Secretary of State's guidance to licensing authorities makes clear, such conditions should only be imposed where necessary and should take into account factors such as the location, style of the venue and the activities carried on there.

Licensing Laws

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment her Department has made of the conclusions of the Licensing Review Panel; and if she will make a statement. [131990]

Mr. Woodward: We are continuing to assess all of the panel's detailed conclusions and recommendations and will provide a response in due course. Before reaching a final decision on any changes to the fees regime and related issues, we will undertake a full public consultation so all stakeholders have the opportunity to inform future policy.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms exist under the Licensing Act 2003 to review the licence of licence holders charged with offences who do not declare that they hold a licence at the time of the legal proceedings. [133052]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: Under the 2003 Act, it is the responsibility of a personal licence holder when charged with a relevant offence to inform the court he holds a personal licence and to produce it to the court. If he fails to do so, without reasonable excuse, the defendant commits an offence under the Act and on conviction, he would be liable to a fine of up to £500. This offence is also a "relevant offence" under Schedule 4 to the Act and therefore, on conviction, the court would be able to consider either suspension or forfeiture of the personal licence.

Olympic Games: Security

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what her latest estimate is for the cost of policing during the Olympic Games in 2012; [130129]

(2) how much of the additional £600 million of security costs for the 2012 Olympics she announced in her statement to the House on 15 March 2007 is to be allocated to *(a)* on-site security, *(b)* wider security and *(c)* policing costs during the Games themselves; [130130]

(3) if she will break down the additional £600 million of security costs for the 2012 Olympics announced in her Statement to the House on 15 March 2007; [130131]

(4) what her latest estimate is of the cost of policing during the Olympic Games in 2012. [132551]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 450, on progress towards the Olympic Games and the Paralympics in 2012. This included reference to an allocation of £600 million, within the overall budget, for wider security, on top of

the Olympic Delivery Authority budget for site security. This figure also excludes the cost of security inside the venues during the Games, which is the responsibility of the London Organising Committee.

The Home Office and Olympic Security Co-ordinator are developing and costing the security planning and operation for London 2012. This will be published when appropriate.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total estimated cost to the Metropolitan Police is of controlling any increase in crime during the Olympic Games in 2012. [131209]

Tessa Jowell: The Home Office and Olympic Security Co-ordinator are developing and costing the security and planning operation for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in 2012, including the costs for the Metropolitan Police. This will be published when appropriate.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many people are employed to gather data and update the Television Licensing database; [132976]

(2) what the total cost is of equipping a single television detector van; [133002]

(3) what percentage of receipts from the television licence fee was spent on the detection of licence evaders in the last period for which figures are available. [133011]

Mr. Woodward: The BBC has statutory responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system and TV Licensing carries out the day to day administration under contract to the Corporation. I have therefore asked the BBC's Head of Revenue Management to consider the questions raised by the hon. Member and to write direct to him. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Detainees

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what resources were allocated by his Department to Conduct After Capture training in each of the last six years; and what personnel were allocated to providing this training over the same period, broken down by grade; [133120]

(2) he will make a statement on the Conduct After Capture training provided by the armed forces; and how many of those hostages recently released from Iranian custody received Conduct After Capture training; [133121]

(3) which parts of the Armed Forces receive Conduct After Capture training; and how many members of the armed forces received such training in each of the last six years. [133122]

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* instructions and *(b)* training are given to armed forces personnel in preparation for the possibility that they may find themselves held against their will by a foreign power or hostile organisation. [132409]

Des Browne *[holding answer 19 April 2007]:* UK military personnel receive different levels of training into Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Extraction (SERE) techniques depending on their mission. Personnel who are at greater risk of capture receive enhanced training. I am withholding details on the specific nature of the training because this would, or would be likely, to prejudice the capacity, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

I announced on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 23-26, that Lieutenant General Sir Rob Fulton Royal Marines will lead an inquiry into the recent incident in which Iran illegally detained 15 UK service personnel. This inquiry will examine SERE training alongside the other operational aspects of the incident. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to comment further until this inquiry is complete.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 13 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 203W, on armed forces: housing, which personnel are included in the group 'other'. [132595]

Derek Twigg: The breakdown of 'other' occupancy of single living accommodation is as follows:

	Percentage
Defence Equipment and Support	49
Centre TLB	45
Commander Joint Operations	6

A breakdown of 'other' occupancy of service families accommodation is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Mass Media

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has made to United Kingdom media on the *(a)* advisability and *(b)* propriety of their offering financial inducements to serving military personnel to give interviews about their experiences on operations. [132020]

Des Browne *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* None.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) for what reason the service personnel held captive in Iran were given permission to receive payment in return for statements to the media about their experiences; [132042]

(2) who made the decision to allow the service personnel held captive in Iran to sell their stories to media organisations. [132043]

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* military officers and *(c)* civilian officials (i) were consulted about and (ii) took the decision to permit serving military personnel who had been captured by Iran to sell their stories to the media; [132018]

(2) what assessment he made before the decision was taken to allow serving military personnel to sell their stories to the media, of the effects of the making of such payments on *(a)* the morale of (i) injured service personnel, (ii) bereaved service families and (iii) other serving military personnel who have not received comparable sums and *(b)* the public perception of the armed services. [132021]

Des Browne *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* I refer my hon. Friend and the hon. Member to the statement I made on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 23-26.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* support and *(b)* guidance is offered to military personnel when granted permission to enter into financial arrangements with media organisations. [132044]

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the criteria have been since 1997 for deciding whether to grant permission for serving military personnel *(a)* to have accounts published and *(b)* to sell media interviews about their experiences on operations; and how many instances there have been since 1997 of second-hand accounts of such experiences being sold to the media by relatives of military personnel who were still serving. [132019]

Des Browne *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* Provisions governing service personnel who wish to communicate with the media are contained in Queen's Regulations for the Armed Forces and a Defence Council Instruction published in October 2004. These, along with the support and guidance offered to military personnel in such circumstances, are currently under review, as I explained in my statement on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 23-26.

Until this review is complete, and any necessary changes to these provisions have been made, no service personnel are allowed to talk to the media about their experiences in return for payment.

It is not possible for the MOD to determine the number of instances of relatives selling second-hand accounts to the media.

Departments: Official Engagements

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* his official engagements and *(b)* those of each other Minister in his Department were for Thursday 12th April. [132292]

Des Browne *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* On Thursday 12 April 2007 I was in Quebec to attend a meeting of Defence Ministers to discuss the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan. The Minister for Defence Equipment and Support, Lord Drayson, was in London and attended a dinner of the Air Force Board that evening. The Minister for the Armed Forces and the Under-Secretary of State were each on leave.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list each of his official engagements for 5 April to 9 April. [133367]

Des Browne: On 5 April, I was in office in the Ministry of Defence all morning and conducted a number of media interviews at lunchtime before returning to my constituency. I had no official engagements from Good Friday (6 April) until Easter Monday (9 April) but received regular updates on operational issues, as usual. I made a routine telephone call to the Australian Defence Minister on the evening of 9 April to discuss a range of operational issues. The only official engagement by my ministerial colleagues was one by the Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Veterans, who visited the Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham on the afternoon of 5 April to visit service personnel.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Department. [132205]

Derek Twigg: Expenditure on alcohol at public expense is governed by the general principles of financial propriety set out in Government Accounting and the MOD's own regulations for the provision of official entertainment promulgated in Joint Service Publication 462 (Financial Management Policy Management Manual). The provision of alcohol must, at all times, be in moderation and constitute an admissible charge to the Defence Budget.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what equipment was seized by Iran during the capture of the 15 Royal Navy personnel; and whether any or all of the equipment has been returned. [132835]

Des Browne: The equipment seized by Iranians during the capture of the 15 Royal Naval personnel consisted of: two Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats, seven carbines, four rifles, 10 pistols and ammunition, communications and navigation systems, body armour, helmets, goggles and camera equipment. None of this equipment has been returned by the Iranian authorities.

Detainees: Iran

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) where the Iranian force that detained 15 UK sailors and marines came from; and what transport they used; [132816]

(2) when the 15 UK sailors and marines recently detained in Iran first saw the Iranian force coming to detain them; [132817]

(3) whether the 15 UK sailors and marines considered making a swift withdrawal in their boat when they saw the Iranian force approaching; [132818]

(4) how many Iranian troops detained the 15 UK sailors and marines in the recent incident. [132876]

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which non-military personnel were on the Lynx helicopter which oversaw the boarding of the freighter in Iraqi waters on 23 March 2007; how many hours' flying were left on the Lynx helicopter as from 23 March to its next major service; and for what reason HMS Cornwall did not have a second Lynx helicopter; [132447]

(2) what arms were carried by each of the 15 service personnel prior to their capture by the Iranian authorities on 23 March 2007; and how much ammunition each member of personnel carried during their time on the freighter boarded in Iraqi waters; [132448]

(3) which vessels Commodore Lambert had under his command, and what the draught was for each vessel; [132449]

(4) whether boardings were carried out using *(a)* a joint multinational force and *(b)* the Royal Navy alone during Commodore Lambert's period of command; [132450]

(5) what choice of Command Post was available to Commodore Lambert; [132451]

(6) whether any order was given on 23 March 2007 from *(a)* HMS Cornwall and *(b)* any senior personnel for the boarding party to return to their boats from the freighter after the sighting of the Iranian speed-boats; [132453]

(7) how long it took from the first sighting of the two Iranian speed-boats on 23 March 2007 for those boats to be alongside the two British boats. [132454]

Des Browne: I refer the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) and the hon. Member for Congleton (Ann Winterton) to the statement I made on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 23-26, in which I stated that there would be an inquiry, lead by Lieutenant General Sir Rob Fulton Royal Marines (Retd), into this incident. It would therefore be inappropriate for me to comment further until this inquiry is complete.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Leading Seaman Turney was interviewed by a BBC film crew at any time prior to going on the boarding mission on 23 March 2007. [132452]

Des Browne: Leading Seaman Turney was interviewed by a BBC crew on the evening of 22 March 2007, as were several other members of the ship's crew. The BBC were already onboard HMS Cornwall for a planned visit.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what review of naval procurement and mothballing plans is to take place following the recent seizure of British military personnel by Iran. [133161]

Des Browne: We keep the readiness states of our operational warships under constant review. We are pressing ahead with the largest warship building programme this country has seen for decades. This includes the new Type 45 Destroyers, Astute class nuclear attack submarines and the future aircraft carriers.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many locally employed people are working as *(a)* interpreters and *(b)* drivers for the British Forces deployed in Southern Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [132734]

Des Browne: There are currently 186 interpreters and two drivers employed locally by British forces deployed in Southern Iraq.

Iran: Territorial Waters

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes were introduced following the seizure of the British marine patrol vessel by Iran in 2004. [130865]

Des Browne *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* Changes introduced following the seizure of the British marine patrol vessel by Iran in 2004 on the Shatt Al Arab waterway included a review of the role of the Royal Naval Training Team and their operational command structure, vessels were equipped with heavier weapons and improved communications systems and enhancements were made to Royal Marine/Naval Pre-Deployment Training.

Navy: Persian Gulf

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many naval ships are deployed in the Persian Gulf under the authority of UN Security Council resolution 1723. [133152]

Des Browne: As at 20 April 2007, the following naval ships are operating in the Persian Gulf in direct support of the coalition effort authorised by UNSCR 1723.

HMS Cornwall
USS Underwood
USS Chinook
USS Typhoon
USS Scirocco
USCGC Aquidneck

Rules of Engagement

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what action UK forces are allowed to take to avoid and respond to arrest or attack when participating in UN missions. [132815]

Des Browne: UK service personnel have an inherent right to lawful self-defence, whether they are deployed on national or UN missions.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Department. [132204]

The Deputy Prime Minister: All expenditure in the Department is conducted in accordance with the principles of "Government Accounting" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety", copies of which are available in the Library for the reference of Members.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the meetings between himself and outside interest groups which took place between 1 January and 31 March. [132435]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Ministers and civil servants meet a large number of individuals and groups in the course of their official duties. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Disadvantaged: Financial Services

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if her Department will take steps to introduce microfinance schemes for individuals in deprived areas to improve rates of social inclusion. [124728]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1161W.

Policy Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the costs have been of *(a)* commissioning and designing, *(b)* printing and *(c)* distributing each (i) report, (ii) publication and (iii) presentation produced by the Government's policy review. [133420]

Hilary Armstrong: This information is not available in the format requested.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* value and *(b)* purpose has been of each payment to external companies or organisations under the Government's policy review. [133431]

Hilary Armstrong: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2198W.

The results of the policy review process have been published in a series of papers under the title "Building on Progress", identifying long-term trends and new challenges and examining how existing policies need to be developed to continue to meet the country's priorities.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children in Care: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children under the age of five years were taken into care in Lancashire in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [132023]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 18 April 2007]*: The number of children under the age of five years who were taken into care in Lancashire was 105 in both years ending 30 March 2005 and 2006.

Children in Care: Runaway Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many children looked after by a local authority were missing in 2006 for *(a)* more than a week and *(b)* more than a month; and how many such children went missing in that year and did not return at all; [121261]

(2) on how many occasions during 2006 a looked after child was missing from care overnight. [121262]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 19 February 2007]*: The number of children looked after by a local authority who were missing in 2006 for more than a week was 620. Of those, 370 went missing for more than a month. Of the 370, 100 had not returned by 31 March 2006. In compiling theses figures, children who went missing more than once were only counted once. If they went missing more than once the duration of the missing episodes were considered independently (the days were not cumulated).

The number of occasions during 2006 when a looked after child was missing from care for at least 24 hours is shown in the following table.

Number of occasions in the year ending 31 March 2006 when looked after children went missing from care for at least 24 hours—England

Number and percentage

Number of occasions child went missing	*Number of children who went missing*	*Percentage*
All occasions	970	100
1	710	73
2	140	15
3	50	5
4	30	3
5	20	2
6	10	1
7	—	—
8	10	1
9	—	—
10 or more	10	1

Notes:
1. To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, to the nearest 10 otherwise. Figures between 1 and 5 inclusive have been suppressed and replaced by a hyphen "-".
2. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number but have been suppressed where the numerator was 5 or less or the denominator was 10 or less, in accordance with National Statistics protocols.
Source:
SSDA903.

National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the costs per child to each local authority in England of fulfilling commitments under the National Service Framework which would previously have been met by Sure Start funding. [133050]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: The National Service Framework for children, young people and maternity services sets standards for children's health and social services and the interface of those services with education. Sure Start local programmes had discretion on how to allocate funds to meet local needs. Some chose to add to the resources for health services in their areas by employing midwives and health visitors. The roll-out of children's centres since 2003 across England reflects the change from this pilot initiative, testing out new ways of working, to an integrated common approach to delivering mainstream children's services. Local authorities and their partners in Children's Trusts are working together to plan and deliver their children's centres services, reconfiguring services where necessary. The Department cannot give a detailed estimate of the costs of funding commitments under the National Service Framework, as these are funded from a variety of sources to provide children's health and social care services. Between 2002-03 and 2005-06 the Department has spent an estimated £1.9 billion on Sure Start local programmes and children's centres. There are now 1,258 children's centres up and running reaching over 1 million children under the age of five.

Children's Centres

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children's centres *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year for which figures are available. [132981]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is as follows:

(a) There are currently 1,258 Sure Start children's centres open. The breakdown by calendar year is as follows:

	Number of Sure Start children's centres opened
2003	59
2004	131
2005	254
2006	606
2007 (up to 19 April 2007)	208

(b) We have not received any reports of closures.

Divorce

Mr. Ostein: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make it his policy to require divorcing couples to undertake mandatory mediation during disputes over access to children; and if he will enshrine in law the principle of shared parenting. [132746]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: The Government do not believe that it would be in the best interests of children to require separating parents to undertake mediation in all cases, nor do the Government plan to enshrine in law the principle of shared parenting.

The Government are committed to the principle that mediation is beneficial, where it is in the child's best interests and there are no concerns for the safety of any member of the family. Provisions in the Children and Adoption Act 2006 will empower the court to direct parties, where appropriate, to attend a meeting to receive information about mediation.

To enshrine shared parenting in legislation could, in effect, introduce a legal presumption of contact. This would shift the focus of family law away from the paramount interests of the child and prioritise the rights of parents above the interests of the child. The assumption that both parents have equal status and value as parents is already enshrined in current law. The Family Courts are already able to make shared residence orders, where such orders are in the best interests of the child, based on the circumstances of the case.

Fulford School

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what resources are paid by central Government to the enhanced resource centre for Autism and Aspergers at Fulford School in the City of York; what assessment has been made of the results produced by this resource centre; and what plans there are to increase such resource centre provision at other schools in England. [132754]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: No resources are paid by central Government to the enhanced resource centre at Fulford School. It is for local authorities (LAs) to organise and maintain their special educational needs (SEN) provision from the resources which are available to them and to keep their SEN arrangements under review.

The Department has not made an assessment of the resource centre at Fulford School. Ofsted's last inspection of the school in December 2003, before the resource centre opened two years ago, noted that

> "specialist local authority staff provide high quality individual tuition for students with different needs, including autism and specific learning difficulties".

Since the resource centre opened, City of York LA has conducted a review which found that the centre was making high quality provision which is greatly appreciated by parents.

Decisions on opening resourced provision are taken locally. The Department's team of SEN advisers reported in October 2006 that

"many [local authorities] reported on the development of specialist resourced provision within mainstream schools. Most new provision was designed to meet the needs of pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders or Behavioural, Emotional and Social Difficulties".

The Ofsted report 'Inclusion: does it matter where pupils are taught? (2006)' stated that

"there was little difference in the quality of provision and outcomes for pupils [with SEN] across primary, secondary and special schools. However, 'mainstream schools with additionally resourced provision were particularly successful in achieving high outcomes for pupils academically, socially and personally".

Through guidance, the Government promote a range of provision, including resourced provision, for children with SEN in general and those with autistic spectrum disorders (ASDs) in particular. The ASDs 'Good Practice Guidance' (DfES/DH, 2002) advised local authorities to aim for "a spectrum of provision for the spectrum of need". The Department is currently considering responses to a consultation on draft guidance on 'Planning and Developing Special Educational Provision' which includes advice on developing a range of provision. The guidance will be published later this year.

Grandparents: Parental Responsibility

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he has taken to co-ordinate Government policy to support grandparents who act as parents to their grandchildren. [133014]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: The Government published the Green Paper 'Care Matters' last autumn which contained a number of proposals and consultation questions related to the care of children by family and friends, including grandparents.

The consultation responses were published on 17 April and it is clear that remaining with family rather than going into care is a very high priority for many children and young people who replied. Respondents also highlighted a range of ways in which support to family and friends carers could be provided. The policy issues have also been considered by the independent working group on future of the care population which was one of four working groups set up following the publication of 'Care Matters'. We shall be taking all these views into account in taking forward the planned 'Care Matters' White Paper.

Higher Education: Finance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the announcements in the Budget about science funding, what funds are to be made available to the Higher Education Funding Council for England for research funding in each of the next four years. [132770]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 24 April 2007]*: The Budget settlement gives an average annual real terms increase of 2.4 per cent. for our total ring-fenced research funding. We are now considering the detailed allocation of funding towards the goal set out in the 10 Year Science and Innovation Investment Framework of maintaining a sustainable and dynamic research base.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what definition the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority uses of drawing on the specified breadth of the subject when teaching the key concepts and processes in the secondary curriculum review. [133455]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority defines

"drawing on the specified breadth of the subject when teaching the key concepts and processes in the secondary curriculum review"

as requiring that all parts of the statutory Range and Content sections of the programmes of study must be included in the teaching programme.

Sure Start Programme: Cornwall

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the per capita spending by his Department was on Sure Start programmes in Cornwall in each year since 1997. [133051]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: There are currently seven Sure Start local programmes in Cornwall. The programmes opened on a rolling basis between 2000 and 2003 and aimed to reach over 4,800 children. In their first two to three years, programmes were building up their services and did not generally operate at peak levels until the third or fourth year. The average expenditure per child for every year for which the grant was paid or allocated is in the following table. From 2006-07, the earliest programme's grants start to taper to a level consistent with delivering the children's centres offer. We expect that local authorities will be in a position to make savings through economies of scale, for example on administration, finance and evaluation, now that the grant for the programmes is paid directly to them.

Financial year	*Average revenue expenditure per child (£)*
2000-01	418
2001-02	901
2002-03[1]	747
2003-04	939
2004-05	1,063
2005-06	1,114
2006-07[2]	1,031

[1] Six programmes received funding for the first time in 2002-03 but because they were not at peak levels, the per capita expenditure falls.
[2] Planned number of children receiving services each year. *Source:* 2000-06—actual expenditure by Sure Start local programmes. 2006-07—funding allocated for Sure Start local programmes.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Emissions

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department began to measure its carbon emissions; what the volume of those emissions was in the last period for which figures are available; when his

Department started to offset those emissions; what the cost is expected to be of offsetting his Department's emissions; and if he will make a statement. [116400]

Ian Pearson: The Department's most recent estimate of carbon dioxide emissions (CO_2) from buildings and business travel is as follows:

Source	*2005-06 (t)*
Buildings	[1]46,009
Business travel	[2]9,155

[1] This figure is for DEFRA and executive agencies.
[2] Carbon dioxide emissions from road vehicles in DEFRA and executive agencies plus carbon dioxide emissions from DEFRA and CEFAS for air travel, taking account of radiative forcing, in line with the Government carbon offsetting fund.

Carbon dioxide emissions from buildings have been recorded since April 1999. DEFRA and executive agencies have recorded carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles since April 2002. DEFRA and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) have recorded air travel from April 2005 and rail travel from April 2001.

DEFRA and CEFAS offset air travel (from April 2005), DEFRA offset rail travel (from June 2006) and DEFRA will offset vehicle travel from June 2007. Carbon dioxide emissions from buildings are not offset, but DEFRA is committed to achieving carbon neutrality on its office estate by 2012.

The cost of offsetting carbon dioxide emissions from business travel for 2005-06 is approximately £27,000. DEFRA is a participant in the Government carbon offsetting fund (GCOF) which offsets carbon dioxide emissions attributable to air travel and other sources across some 40 Departments and agencies. The GCOF will deliver between 255,000 and 305,000 certified emission reductions by April 2009.

Departments: Travel

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of each helicopter flight he has taken within the UK on official business in the last three months. [133313]

Barry Gardiner: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not taken any helicopter flights within the UK on official business in the last three months.

Fisheries

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations with *(a)* the North Sea Fisheries Advisory Council and *(b)* the Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee he had on skates and rays before attending the December 2006 EU Council of Fisheries ministers. [130812]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* The North Sea Regional Advisory Council (RAC) was consulted directly by the European Commission on their proposals for the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and quota arrangements for 2007 when they were released on 6 December. This included the proposal on the bycatch limit for skates and rays. I am not aware that the RAC raised any concerns about this provision at the time.

Because of the late arrival of the proposals, it was not possible for my Department to consult all interested parties. A number of discussions took place with the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) and the English producer organisations (POs)—who are represented on the Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee—as well as their counterparts in other parts of the UK. On the basis of these discussions, we identified that the original Commission proposal for a 5 per cent. bycatch limit was too low and likely to lead to increased discarding. The Commission accepted this argument to some extent, and we succeeded in having the figure increased to 25 per cent. We also succeeded in reducing the scale of their proposed cut in the TAC to 20 per cent. (from 45 per cent.).

Ground Water

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that water service customers may claim a historical rebate of greater than one year for surface drainage services that they have not received. [132631]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water industry and is responsible for setting price limits.

It requires companies to offer rebates for surface water drainage to customers who do not benefit in any way from this service, starting from the charging year in which they first apply for the rebate. Companies are also required to explain on customers' bills that surface water drainage rebates are available. All 10 water and sewerage companies in England and Wales do this. Many companies also include information leaflets with their bills explaining the rebate.

Ofwat does not expect companies to provide rebates retrospectively for periods before the current charging year. If companies were to do this, they would expect to backdate corresponding increases in charges for customers who are connected for surface water drainage. Ofwat does not consider this to be either practicable or desirable.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Government of Burma on the treatment of political opponents. [131999]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no bilateral discussions with the Burmese Government.

She remains deeply concerned about the treatment of the Burmese regime's political opponents. Over a thousand political opponents are held in prison and others are subject to harassment and exile for their political beliefs.

As a result, I have on my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's behalf:

raised the treatment of political prisoners with the Burmese ambassador on 15 June 2006 and in my letter to the Burmese Foreign Minister of 5 July 2006;

raised human rights abuses in Burma during a meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) ambassadors in London last September, and with UN Under-Secretary General, Ibrahim Gambari, in November 2006; and

also highlighted our concerns about the appalling treatment of political opponents in separate statements on 2 June 2006, concerning the harsh sentences given to Shan democracy leaders; 2 October 2006, concerning the arbitrary detention of six Burmese democracy activists; 19 October 2006, concerning the death in custody of Ko Thet Win Aung and 15 February concerning the deplorable decision to extend the house arrest of U Tin Oo, the Vice Chairman of the National League for Democracy.

Most recently, I raised the human rights situation in Burma in my address to the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 13 March and at the EU-Association of Southeast Asian Nations Foreign Ministers Meeting in Nuremberg on 15 March, in the presence of the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister.

I will be again raising Burma when I attend the 8th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers Meeting, in Hungary on 28-29 May.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on hospitality by her Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133256]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not maintain central records of total annual expenditure on hospitality across the FCO and UK missions overseas. To collate this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Government Hospitality, FCO Services, spent approximately £810 000 in total in financial year 2006-07. Government Hospitality funds and arranges formal ministerial hospitality for all Government Departments; although the FCO is the largest single user of the service (and budget) it accounts for only around 30 per cent. of the total annual spend.

Iran: Territorial Waters

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the date was of each complaint made by the UK Government to international bodies against the Government of Iran for seizing United Kingdom service personnel in 2004; to which international body each was made; what the outcome was of each complaint; and if she will make a statement. [133817]

Mr. McCartney: We raise the 2004 Iranian seizure of service personnel through our bilateral contacts with Iran, along with Iraq. We have not raised the incident with any international bodies.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made since October 2006 by the Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility in Iraq; and what discussions the Government have had with *(a)* the United States and *(b)* Iraqi counterparts on the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq. [132536]

Margaret Beckett: The Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility (JCTSR) assesses the extent to which provinces meet the conditions required for transition to Provincial Iraqi Control, and based on this, recommends to the Iraqi Ministerial Council on National Security when provinces are ready. Since October 2006, the JCTSR has recommended that Najaf and Maysan provinces be transitioned.

Decisions on UK force levels in Iraq are naturally the subject of regular consultation both with the Government of Iraq and with the United States and our other allies.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recommendations the Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility in Iraq has made on those provinces and provincial capitals ready for the transfer of security responsibilities; and if she will make a statement. [132539]

Margaret Beckett: The Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility has so far recommended Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Najaf and Maysan for transition. All four provinces are now under lead Iraqi security control. As my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary said on 18 April, the transfer of Maysan province to Provincial Iraqi Control is an important milestone. It demonstrates the progress being made by the Iraqi security forces, in co-operation with Coalition forces, as they continue to assume greater responsibility for their country's security.

Iraq: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact of the departure of Muqtada al-Sadr's political group from the Iraqi parliament on the political situation in Iraq. [132758]

Mr. McCartney: Muqtada al-Sadr's group have not left the Iraqi parliament. Muqtada al-Sadr recently called on Sadrist Ministers in the Iraqi Government to withdraw from their positions. Prime Minister Maliki has welcomed the move as an opportunity to appoint Ministers based on their ability rather than on a sectarian basis and has appointed interim Ministers to the Ministries concerned.

Nigeria: Elections

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what international observers were present for recent gubernatorial elections in Nigeria; and what observers she expects to be present for the presidential elections in Nigeria. [132600]

Mr. McCartney: The elections held in Nigeria on 14 April to choose State Governors and Members of the State Houses of Assembly were attended by observers from the EU, the Economic Community of West African States, the Commonwealth, the National Democratic Institute and IFES, a United States-based organisation. The same observer missions were present for the presidential elections held on 21 April. The International Republican Institute also deployed observers on 21 April.

For the elections on both 14 and 21 April the EU Election Observation Mission, led by Max van den Berg, Member of the European Parliament, deployed about 150 observers in total, covering 33 of the 36 States. On both election days our High Commission in Abuja, offices of the Department for International Development in Nigeria and other diplomatic missions also deployed observers, to complement the work of the visiting international observers. My hon. Friend the Member for Sunderland, South (Mr. Mullin) was also present for the presidential elections, with our High Commission, as Special Representative of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of intimidation and undemocratic practices in gubernational elections in Nigeria; and if she will make a statement. [132601]

Mr. McCartney: There have been numerous reports of violence and intimidation during the elections held in Nigeria on 14 April to choose State Governors and Members of the State Houses of Assembly. It is estimated that at least fifty people were killed in election-related violence between 13 and 15 April.

As well as the unacceptable violence and intimidation, there were serious flaws in the administration of the elections. Problems reported by EU observers include poor organisation, lack of transparency, widespread procedural irregularities, significant evidence of fraud, voter disenfranchisement and lack of equal conditions for contestants. In a statement released on 23 April the EU Election Observation Mission in Nigeria said that both the State elections on 14 April and the Federal elections on 21 April had fallen short of basic international and regional standards for democratic elections.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a public statement about the State and Federal elections on 23 April. The statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: www.fco.gov.uk and we will place a copy in the Library of the House.

Sudan: Asylum

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what monitoring her Department undertakes of the treatment of repatriated asylum seekers in Sudan; and what her latest assessment is of their treatment. [132302]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not routinely monitor individual repatriated failed asylum seekers. It would generally be inappropriate and impractical for the UK to monitor individual citizens of another country once they return there.

This should not be interpreted as disinterest. The FCO follows the human rights situation through our network of posts around the world, including in the countries to which we return failed asylum seekers. Information on the human rights situation is always taken fully into account as a factor in the formulation of Home Office policies on asylum, and hence in the decision about whether it is safe to return an individual.

Asylum and human rights claims by nationals of Sudan are, like those of claimants from all countries, considered on their individual merits in accordance with the UK's obligations under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. Each application is considered against the background of the latest country information available from a wide range of reliable sources including international organisations, non-governmental organisations, the FCO and the media.

The country information on Sudan is available to decision-makers in regularly updated country reports which are available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had on the situation in Darfur with the Government of *(a)* Chad, *(b)* the Central African Republic and *(c)* Uganda. [132300]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is pressing all sides involved in the Darfur conflict to engage in a renewed political process and stop supporting each other's rebels.

The UK Ambassador-at-Large for the Sudanese Peace Process raised these issues when he visited Chad on 20 February. Our High Commissioner in Yaounde (non-resident Ambassador to the Central African Republic) also discussed regional instability with the Government of the Central African Republic when he visited in January. Given the importance of this issue, we will continue to press both the Governments of Chad and Sudan on this matter. We regularly discuss the conflict with our partners in the Security Council and with regional Governments such as Uganda.

We are also urging the African Union and UN to make rapid progress on the political track, which they agreed to take forward at the Addis Ababa and Abuja summits last November.

HEALTH

Waiting Times

13. **Dr. Palmer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in this Parliament in reducing hospital waiting times. [133186]

Andy Burnham: Excellent progress has been made. Since May 2005, the number of patients waiting longer than six months for treatment has fallen from around 50,000 to less than 400. The average in-patient wait has fallen from 8.3 weeks to 6.6 weeks.

20. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the current maximum waiting times are for hip surgery in *(a)* Leicestershire, *(b)* Warwickshire and *(c)* England. [133195]

Andy Burnham: The maximum wait for all in-patient/day case surgery, including hip operations, has fallen from 26 weeks to 20 weeks from 1 April 2007. By the end of 2008 patients requiring hip surgery will wait a maximum of 18 weeks from general practitioner referral to the start of treatment.

Waiting time data are collected at a specialty level. The latest available data for trauma and orthopaedics, which include hip surgery, in Leicestershire, Warwickshire and England are shown in the table.

Commissioner based trauma and orthopaedics waiting time information at the end of February 2007

	Organisation name			
	Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust (PCT)	*Leicester City Teaching PCT*	*Warwickshire PCT*	*All England*
Total number awaiting	2,527	965	2,575	185,876
Number waiting				
Over 20 weeks	297	112	257	16,768
Over 26 weeks	11	0	0	347
Percentage waiting				
Over 20 weeks	11.8	11.6	10.0	9.0
Over 26 weeks	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.2

Source:
Department of Health, Monthly Monitoring

Healthcare-acquired Infections

14. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take further steps to improve the public awareness of how to prevent healthcare-acquired infections. [133187]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We already provide information for the public on healthcare associated infections and the "Health Act 2006 Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Health Care Associated Infections" requires Trusts to provide suitable patient information. Additional new materials to help Trusts improve local public awareness are due this summer.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to reduce the incidence of hospital-acquired infection in Gloucestershire. [133179]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust is working in partnership with Gloucestershire Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust on infection control. The foundation trust has produced a detailed action plan which was assessed by my Department's meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Improvement Programme Review Team on 6 March 2007, and the local NHS continues to monitor the situation.

Health Visitors

15. **Mr. Burstow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the availability of health visitors; and if she will make a statement. [133188]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The latest published census showed the headcount number of health visitors in England has increased by over 400 or 3 per cent. since 1997 to over 12,800 in 2005.

Community Hospitals and Services

16. **Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department is planning to spend on community hospitals and services in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [133189]

Andy Burnham: We are committed to community hospitals where they represent the best solutions for local communities. To support this we have set up a five year £750 million programme to promote the development of community hospitals and services. To date we have allocated around £100 million to 14 different schemes.

Audiology

17. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of waiting times to receive a digital hearing aid. [133190]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect waiting times data for hearing aid fitting. We recognise that there are significant challenges with regard to waiting times to receive a digital hearing aid. As part of the process of addressing this challenge, we published "Improving Access to Audiology Services in England" in March 2007.

Patients' Telephone Services

18. **Jessica Morden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the progress of work with suppliers to consider further ways of reducing incoming call charges for hospital patients. [133191]

Andy Burnham: Discussions have taken place with the two service providers, originally investigated by the Office of Communications, to identify possible ways of reducing their incoming call charge.

As reported by the Patient Power Review Group, in February, there is no easy, quick fix solution to this problem but the Department is working hard to resolve this issue.

Smoke-free Legislation

19. **Chris Ruane:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards implementing the smoke-free legislation in England. [133193]

Caroline Flint: With all sets of smoke-free regulations on the statute book, the Department's Smokefree England campaign is in full swing.

Funding and training has been provided to local authorities. Guidance packs are now being sent to businesses across England and a free phone information line and website is operating.

The Department will also run a public information advertising campaign in the lead-up to 1 July.

Health Mutuals

21. **Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways health mutuals work in co-operation with the NHS. [133196]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A range of mutual organisations are involved in delivering national health service services, including NHS foundation trusts and some social enterprises. Health mutuals can offer positive benefits for patients, local communities and employees.

Alcoholism

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been allocated to treat alcoholism in 2007-08. [133681]

Caroline Flint: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) to determine what proportion of their general allocation is spent on treating alcoholism. An additional £15 million is included within PCTs' general allocation from 2007-08 onwards to help PCTs to improve their local arrangements for commissioning and delivering specialist alcohol interventions.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women are required to wait more than three years between breast cancer screenings in *(a)* each London primary care trust and *(b)* England. [133816]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The average intervals between screenings for breast cancer by primary care trust is not collected centrally. However, national health service cancer screening programmes requested data from the NHS breast screening programme on the percentage of local screening units achieving the 36 month national standard between screens for quarter four 2005-06 (January to March 2006).

In England, 68 per cent. of women were re-screened within the 36-month national standard and the average wait between screens was 36 months, while the following table shows the average wait between screens (average round length) and the percentage of screenings within the 36-month national standard for the London breast screening units.

Breast screening unit	*Average round length (months)*	*Percentage of screenings within 36 months of previous screening*
South East London—GCA 1	35	70
South East London—GCA 2	35	69
North London—EBA	35	66
South West London—HWA	38	44
Barking Havering—FBH	40	28
West of London—ECX	36	46
Central and East London—FLO	35	78
Whipps Cross—FWC	42	7

The NHS cancer plan, published in 2000, stated that we would extend invitations for breast screening to women aged 65 to 70 and introduce two-view mammography at all screening rounds. Thanks to the efforts of the staff in the screening programme, these targets have now been achieved in all local breast screening units. The expansion is already showing an effect, with nearly 12,000 cancers diagnosed by the programme in 2004-05, an increase of 40 per cent. on 2001 when the expansion began.

However, the changes together represent a 40 per cent. increase in the workload of the programme. We are aware that this has had an impact on some services maintaining the three-year interval for screening and we are taking steps to bring all screening intervals back to three years.

We take the issue of the 36-month standard between screens very seriously. That is why Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director, wrote to the chief executives of all 10 strategic health authorities in England on 9 February 2007 highlighting the importance of maintaining the 36-month interval.

Chiropody: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision of NHS chiropody services there is in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [130948]

Caroline Flint: This is a local matter. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to determine how best to use their resources to meet both national and local priorities. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the local health community including the provision of chiropody services.

Chlamydia Infection: Screening

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of chlamydia screening is being undertaken using nucleic acid amplification testing. [130751]

Caroline Flint: This information is not collected centrally.

The Government have recognised that the need to switch to the superior nucleic acid amplification test for chlamydia testing and screening should be treated as a priority. £7 million pump-priming money was invested in 2004-05 to ensure that all major laboratories in each region of England use the most effective technology.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many chlamydia tests have been undertaken in each region of England; and what percentage each figure represents of the target; [130753]

(2) how many people aged 16 to 24 have been screened for chlamydia, and what percentage this figure represents of the target. [130756]

Caroline Flint: Information on the number of people screened in 2005-06 between the ages of 16-24 in the national chlamydia screening programme (NCSP) is given in the table (this is the same figure as tests undertaken). The information covers 26 programme areas and represented 25 per cent. of the previous primary care trust configuration. We expect to have 85 programme areas when we see national coverage during this year.

Region	*Mid 2005 ONS population*	*Screening volume year 3 (to March 2006)*
North East	352,300	4,373
North West	923,600	19,789
Yorkshire and Humber	701,300	13,333
East Midlands	566,700	6,528
West Midlands	712,200	9,557
East of England	665,600	6,255
London	1,014,000	17,360
South East	1,012,800	19,877
South West	621,700	6,341

In addition, data for the number of people diagnosed with chlamydia in 2005 in genito-urinary clinics for each region were published in 'Diagnosis of selected STIs by region, sex and age group, United Kingdom: 1996–2005'. A copy is available in the Library. The document is also freely available at the following website:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hiv_and_sti/epidemiology/datatables2005.htm

There was no national target covering the number of chlamydia screens in 2005-06.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans she has to increase the number of young people screened for chlamydia; [130754]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the number of unscreened people between 16 and 24 who are infected with chlamydia. [130755]

Caroline Flint: The national screening chlamydia programme (NSCP) is an important part of the Government's sexual health strategy. Screening volumes have already increased from just over 18,000 in year one (2003-04) to nearly 104,000 in year three (2005-06). No estimate has been made of the number of 16 to 24-year-olds who have not been screened but are infected with chlamydia but positivity rates in year three for both males and females is very similar (10.1 per cent. and 10.2 per cent. respectively). Screening was undertaken in 26 programme areas.

We expect to see all primary care trusts commence screening during 2007. For the first time a local delivery plan target has been introduced for 2007-08. Strategic health authorities have submitted plans to screen at least 15 per cent. of their population aged 15-24 by March 2008.

In addition, the Department has contracted Boots to pilot the potential of retail pharmacies as chlamydia screening venues. Screening started on 14 November 2005 in all of the Boots stores in London. This two-year pilot is being independently evaluated by TNS Healthcare. To date, nearly 18,000 people have been tested between the ages of 16-24.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* civil servants work in her Department's commercial directorate. [131766]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the table.

Commercial directorate

	Number
Civil servants	5.7
Secondees	21.0
Fixed term contractors	229.8

Notes:
Figures as at 28 February 2007

Departments: Market Research

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's total expenditure on communications research was in each year since 1997-98; and how much of this cost was accounted for by producing *(a)* reports on the public perceptions of the NHS, *(b)* reports from plain English workshops, *(c)* stakeholder surveys, *(d)* national media evaluations, *(e)* regional media evaluations and (f) other research. [131927]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A list of expenditure on communications research in each year since 1997-98 could be provided only at disproportionate costs, as there are no central records for communications research expenditure prior to April 2004.

In April 2004, the Communications Research Team was established. The following table is their expenditure broken down by the areas requested. This should be regarded as an indicative guide to the Department's spend only:

Communications research	*Spend by type (£)*
2007	
Public perceptions of the NHS tracker survey	32,900
Public and NHS staff workshops	53,100
Departmental stakeholder survey	0
National media evaluation	0
Regional media evaluation	0

Communications research	Spend by type (£)
Other research	13,000
Total	99,000
2006	
Public perceptions of the NHS tracker survey	80,500
Public and NHS staff workshops	140,500
Departmental stakeholder survey	20,000
National media evaluation	63,539
Regional media evaluation	52,708
Other research	134,500
Total	491,747
2005	
Public perceptions of the NHS tracker survey	65,000
Public and NHS staff workshops	72,150
Stakeholder research	0
National media evaluation	70,899
Regional medial evaluation	38,018
Other research	53,120
Total	299,187
2004	
Public perceptions of the NHS tracker survey	65,000
Public and NHS staff workshops	54,000
National media evaluation	99,684
Regional media evaluation	16,333
Stakeholder surveys	0
Other research	13,000
Total	248,017

We are committed to consulting and involving the public, national health service staff and our stakeholders to help inform both policy formulation and the delivery of better quality public service. Responsive public services are an important pert of the Modernising Government initiative.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what strategy she has put in place for *(a)* the use of renewable energy and *(b)* meeting energy targets in her Department's buildings; and if she will make a statement. [125404]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has been purchasing green electricity since 2001-02. Since 2004-05 100 per cent. of the electricity for our London administrative estate has been purchased from renewable sources. This is a substantially better performance than the Government target required, which was that 10 per cent. of electricity should be from renewable sources.

We are committed to maximising our energy efficiency, and we have been working with the Carbon Trust and others to identify potential savings. We have recently been commended in the 2005-06 Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report (published 7 March 2007) for having reduced our absolute carbon emissions by 15.4 per cent. since 1999-2000. Along with other Government Departments, we are working towards the target that the whole Government estate should be carbon neutral by 2012.

This information relates to the Department's main London estate. The Department also occupies a building in Leeds, where the major occupier is Department of Work and Pensions, and another building in London where the major occupier is HM Revenue and Customs. They are subject to the same Government-wide targets. Where we do not have direct control over utilities we nevertheless do whatever we can, such as encouraging our staff to save energy, to reduce the overall CO_2 emissions from these buildings.

Diagnosis

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 667W, whether phase two diagnostic schemes have now been finalised in strategic health authorities other than London and the West Midlands; and when she expects the first procedures to be undertaken by phase two diagnostic schemes. [131896]

Andy Burnham: Of the seven regional phase 2 diagnostic schemes, four schemes have reached financial close: London, West Midlands, North West and South West.

The first diagnostic services commenced in London in April 2007, and the remaining schemes will follow on a phased basis through 2007.

Elderly: Nutrition

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received on the diets of hospital patients over the age of 65 years; and if she will make a statement. [118255]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A number of representations have been made regarding either hospital food, or the nutrition of older people. In particular, there has been a recent short debate in the House of Lords, to ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to prevent malnutrition in hospitals, as highlighted in the Age Concern report, "Hungry to be heard", and an Early Day Motion on the same subject.

The Department is actively working on an action plan seeking the involvement of stakeholders in this subject, and recently held a Nutrition Summit, at which Age Concern was represented.

Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust: Pollution Control

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust has spent on buying carbon dioxide permits under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme since the inception of the scheme. [130799]

Caroline Flint: Essex Rivers Healthcare National Health Service Trust does not fall within the provisions of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2005 and as a result has no financial obligations arising from the scheme.

General Practitioners: Gravesham

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the closure of GP practices in Gravesham. [130997]

Caroline Flint: This is a matter for the local national health service. However, the NHS South East Coast Strategic Health Authority reports that West Kent Primary Care Trust has no plans to close general practitioners practices in the Gravesham area.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what meetings *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers have had to discuss the outsourcing of primary care trust functions with (i) the private sector, (ii) the not for profit sector, (iii) Mr. Simon Stevens and (iv) Mr. Paul Corrigan; [131765]

(2) what meetings she had with staff from the commercial directorate on each day between 20 June 2006 and 10 July 2006; which staff she met; and what the subject was of each meeting. [131767]

Andy Burnham: Ministers regularly meet with officials to discuss policy and its delivery.

The procurement team working within the commercial directorate of the Department has held meetings with bidders who wished to be considered for inclusion on the framework for procuring external support for commissioners. These have been in accordance with procurement law. The majority of meetings were with the private sector although the not for profit sector was represented in the bidder pool. Mr. Simon Stevens, of United Health Europe, attended meetings on 9 August 2006 and 1 November 2006. There were no meetings with Mr. Paul Corrigan.

Health Trainers

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the health trainers announced in the Choosing Health White Paper have been appointed. [131329]

Caroline Flint: There are currently 1,100 health trainers recruited to the programme. It is anticipated there will be 1,500 health trainers in spearhead areas by the end of first quarter 2007-08.

Health: Investors in People

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in incorporating a healthy business assessment in the Investors in People standard as proposed in her Department's White Paper "Choosing Health". [127832]

Caroline Flint: Following the publication of "Choosing Health", the Department commissioned Investors in People UK to develop a new framework dedicated to improving health and well-being in the workplace, firmly underpinned by evidence.

A pilot of the latest version of the Investors in People's health and well-being at work framework is now under way, with over 100 organisations undertaking live assessments against the standard.

Heart Disease and Stroke Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Department's report of 5 December on the clinical case for reconfiguration in the context of heart disease and stroke services (1) how many hospitals in each of the strategic health authorities will provide the highest level of emergency diagnostic and treatment services for heart attack and stroke patients; and what assessment she has made of the effect of the proposed reconfiguration of accident and emergency departments on the future resources of ambulance trusts; [109384]

(2) how many hospitals she expects to provide a *(a)* 24 hour emergency angioplasty service, *(b)* 24 hour thrombolysing service for patients with cerebral vascular embolism and *(c)* 24 hour diagnostic scanning and other services to support these procedures; [109385]

(3) what would be the *(a)* fewest locations it would be safe to provide and *(b)* most accident and emergency departments her Department considers to be feasible with full 24 hour per day emergency diagnostic and treatment facilities for heart attack and stroke patients. [109396]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is currently in the middle of a study involving 11 hospitals (10 primary angioplasty centres) to test the feasibility of extending primary angioplasty as the treatment of choice for heart attack in England. The study is looking at different models of service and different geographies. An independent evaluation is assessing workforce implications, costs and the patient experience of primary angioplasty. It will be for local commissioners to decide on their service configuration taking into account the lessons from this study. An interim report on the study is due in 2007 with the final report due in early 2008.

The Department has also commenced work on an 18-month programme to develop a national strategy for strokes. We will be examining different models of care for different geographical areas and it will be for local commissioners to decide upon.

The reconfiguration of accident and emergency departments is for the national health services locally to decide upon, following full consultation with local people. We would expect the development of any proposals for reconfiguration to include an assessment of the impact on the health economy as a whole, including the impact on ambulance trusts.

Homeopathy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will take steps to ensure that patients requesting homeopathic treatment are able to attend one of the NHS homeopathic hospitals in England; [127995]

(2) what steps she is taking to ensure that primary care trusts make patients aware that homeopathic treatment is an option on the NHS; [127996]

(3) if she will make a statement on the availability of homeopathy in NHS hospitals. [127997]

Caroline Flint: The homeopathic hospitals in this country fall under the jurisdiction of the national health service in the area in which they are based. Any decision on the services any of these hospitals provide are the responsibility of those NHS health care organisations.

The Department commissioned the Prince's Foundation for Integrated Health to publish a guide to complementary medicine for patients which gives them the information they would need to make an informed choice about the treatment they would wish to have. This publication is available online at www.FIH.org.uk. Information is also available on the NHS Direct website, www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk, on the possibility of homeopathy being available from one of the five NHS homeopathic hospitals in the United Kingdom as well as some general practitioner practices providing access to homeopathic treatment.

The Government consider that decision-making on individual clinical interventions, whether conventional, or complementary/alternative treatments, have to be a matter for local NHS service providers and practitioners as they are best placed to know their community's needs. In making such decisions, they have to take into account evidence for the safety, clinical and cost-effectiveness of any treatments, the availability of suitably qualified practitioners, and the needs of the individual patient. Clinical responsibility rests with the NHS professional who makes the decision to refer and who must therefore be able to justify any treatment they recommend. If they are unconvinced about the suitability of a particular treatment, they cannot be made to refer.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether patients prescribed homeopathic treatment will be able to access it from *(a)* one of the four NHS homeopathic hospitals and *(b)* local NHS homeopathic clinics; and what commitments the Government has made to the continued provision of homeopathy through NHS homeopathic hospitals. [131760]

Caroline Flint: The homeopathic hospitals in the United Kingdom fall under the jurisdiction of the national health service in the area in which they are based. Any decisions on the services any of these hospitals provide are the responsibility of those NHS healthcare organisations.

The Government consider that decision-making on individual clinical interventions, whether conventional, or complementary/alternative treatments, have to be a matter for local NHS service providers and practitioners as they are best placed to know their community's needs. In making such decisions, they have to take into account evidence for the safety, clinical and cost-effectiveness of any treatments, the availability of suitably qualified practitioners, and the needs of the individual patient. Clinical responsibility rests with the NHS professional who makes the decision to refer and who must therefore be able to justify any treatment they recommend. If they are unconvinced about the suitability of a particular treatment, they cannot be made to refer.

Hospices: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Department's press release of 9 April 2007 entitled National Funding for Local Hospices, what proportion of the £40 million allocated for hospice funding will be available in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [131907]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In September 2006, as part of the Dignity in Care programme, we announced £50 million to be made available over 2006-07 and 2007-08 to enable adult hospices to bid to make physical improvements to their buildings. Hospices were invited to apply for a share of £40 million of this funding to improve their facilities and provide greater dignity for people at or nearing the end of life.

On 9 April 2007 we announced that a total of 191 schemes in 146 hospices had been approved for funding to a total of £40 million. These grants will enable a wide range of improvements for patients and their families, such as more single rooms which offer greater privacy and dignity, additional facilities to allow families to stay overnight with their relatives and more therapeutic and social spaces.

All grants are subject to the individual hospices' receipt of formal confirmation and acceptance of terms and conditions. Once terms are accepted, the funds will be issued over the duration of the projects. We expect the majority of the funding to be issued during 2007-08.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Department's press release of 9 April 2007 entitled National Funding for Local Hospices, which bids for a share of £40 million were unsuccessful; and what the value of the bid was in each such case. [131914]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is in the following table.

Hospices with rejected bid schemes

Name of hospice/ organisation	*Name of rejected project title*	*Amount requested (£)*
Arthur Rank House	Arthur Rank House—refurbishment of inpatient facilities	247,485
Eden Valley Hospice	Provision of gas central heating system	201,513
Fair Havens Hospice	Capital improvements to patient areas—Fair Havens Hospice	624,924
Hospice in the Weald	Project Title—extension of nurses station and physiotherapy room	55,000
Hospice in the Weald	Creation of a patient lounge/conservatory	12,000
Hospice in the Weald	Upgrading the viewing room and mortuary area	10,000
Hospice in the Weald	Upgrade and refurbishment of patients bathrooms	10,000
Hospiscare—Exeter	Home environment project (our second priority application)	49,867
LORDS Leicestershire and Rutland Hospice	Meadow walk	66,000

Hospices with rejected bid schemes

Name of hospice/ organisation	*Name of rejected project title*	*Amount requested (£)*
LOROS Leicestershire and Rutland Hospice	Sensory room	281,500
Myton Hamlet Hospice	Warwick Myton Mortuary development	141,000
Myton Hamlet Hospice (a)	Coventry Myton Hospice	2,400,000
Myton Hamlet Hospice	Hollies Day Hospice and garden redevelopment	101,500
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	Hospices without walls	24,147
Peace Hospice	The Peace Hospice Bid 2: Onwards and Upwards	353,945
Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice	Redesign and refurbishment of the reception and patient waiting area	136,559
Rotherham Hospice	Optimising space	25,000
Royal Marsden Hospital	Horder Ward extension and refurbishment	535,000
Sam Beare Hospice	Sam Beare Hospice capital grant project	357,850
St. Ann's Hospice (Cheadle)	Heald Green Bid 2 (priority bid 2) improvements to inpatient facilities and day care	165,777
St. Ann's Hospice (Day Therapy)	Little Hulton Bid 2 (priority bid 2 for this site) improvements to inpatient facilities and day care	87,312
St. Elizabeth Hospice	Nurse call system	17,890
St. Helena Hospice	Therapies room extension	153,335
St. John's Hospice (London)	Improving first impressions	400,000
St. Joseph's Hospice Association	Replacement of St. Joseph's Hospice, Ormskirk	1,670,000
St. Luke's Hospice (Harrow)	Development of a new multi purpose daycare extension at St. Luke's Hospice increasing patients' dignity and privacy	617,947
St. Mary's Hospice (Selly Park)	Refurbishment and redesign of Day Hospice area and entrance	273,355
St. Mary's Hospice (Selly Park)	Garden conservatory and garden refurbishment	98,438
St. Oswald's Hospice	Breathe Easy Project—installation of medical gas pipeline system	49,199
St. Oswald's Hospice	Reception refurbishment	89,742
St. Peter and St. James Hospice	St. Peter and St. James hospice improvement scheme, project 2	395,623
Sue Ryder Care (Manorlands)	Manorlands Cares	1,137,160
Sue Ryder Care (Wheatfields)	Dignity in care improvements, Wheatfields Hospice	892,385
Sue Ryder Specialist Palliative Care Centre (Peterborough)	Major expansion of Thorpe Hall Hospice	1,000,000
The Margaret Centre	Relocation and rebuilding of the Margaret Centre Specialist Palliative Care Unit	3,841,000
Treetops Hospice	Ripple Appeal	300,000

Note:
In September 2006, as part of the Dignity in Care Campaign, we announced that £50 million would be made available to enhance the physical environment for older people cared for in hospices. An application process was launched for £40 million, administered on behalf of the Department by Help the Hospices. At our request, Help the Hospices established an independent steering group comprising key figures from the hospice and palliative care movement, clinicians, architects and engineers.
This group assessed each application against pre-defined criteria and provided advice to the Department on which applications should be supported.
Of 227 bids, 191 schemes in 146 hospices were approved for funding. There were 36 unsuccessful bids and seven hospices without a single bid accepted.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on public funding for hospices. [133192]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The level of funding a hospice receives is a matter for local negotiation between the local primary care trust (PCT), who are responsible for commissioning and funding palliative care services locally, and the hospice.

The Government have delivered on their commitment to make an additional £50 million per annum available for specialist palliative care for adults. This money is now recurrent in PCT baseline allocations. Voluntary sector children's hospices are receiving funding of £27 million between 2006-07 and 2008-09. In addition, an independent review of the long-term sustainability of children's palliative care (including children's hospices) is being undertaken and its findings will be reported to Ministers shortly.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished in-year admissions there were in the NHS in each year since 1990-91. [131894]

Andy Burnham: The information on the number of finished in-year admissions is shown in the following table.

Data year	*Finished in-year admission episodes*
1990-91	8,268,853
1991-92	8,451,840
1992-93	9,018,746
1993-94	9,457,746
1994-95	9,642,471
1995-96	10,117,212
1996-97	10,128,826
1997-98	10,454,374
1998-99	10,888,972
1999-2000	11,025,943
2000-01	11,001,094
2001-02	10,969,675
2002-03	11,267,716

Data year	Finished in-year admission episodes
2003-04	11,691,694
2004-05	11,988,425
2005-06	12,569,152

Source: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). The information Centre for Health and Social Care

Hospitals: ICT

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Care Records Service computer systems have been installed in hospitals. [132468]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 19 April 2007]*: There are currently 311 hospital-based computer systems deployed through the national programme for information technology that are connected to and use the spine. The spine is the colloquial name given to the national database of key information about patients' health and care. It forms the core of the national health service care records service (NHS CRS). It also supports other key elements of the national programme for information technology, such as choose and book, the electronic prescriptions service, and general practitioner (GP) to GP record transfer, each of them using the spine's messaging capabilities as part of their own services.

A further 158 systems already deployed through the programme will in due course be enabled to link to the spine following further future releases of the relevant software.

Independent Treatment Centres

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the phase two independent sector treatment centres being negotiated, broken down by strategic health authority; what stage of negotiation has been reached in each case; how many operations each centre is expected to perform per year; and how many staff each centre is expected to employ. [129884]

Andy Burnham: The information requested has been placed in the Library. The figures and scheme specifications provided are based on current expected total volumes over the contract period. Independent sector treatment centres contracts stipulate the expected case mix and volume of healthcare to be completed during the five year period of the contract. Actual volumes may change depending on the case mixes that are referred.

For schemes at preferred bidder stage, the commercial terms between the Department and the preferred bidder are still under negotiation, and are subject to change.

Kanamycin and Neomycin

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what medical uses are permitted of *(a)* kanamycin and *(b)* neomycin; and how much of each medicine was used in England in each of the last five years. [128103]

Caroline Flint: There are no licensed products containing kanamycin in the United Kingdom and there are no records of kanamycin having been prescribed in the national health service in the last five years.

Neomycin has a number of indications and is licensed both on its own and in combination with steroids and other anti-infectives as follows:

in combination with betamethasone (a steroid) for:

the short-term treatment of steroid responsive inflammatory conditions of the eye when prophylactic antibiotic treatment is also required, after excluding the presence of viral and fungal disease;

otitis externa or other steroid responsive conditions of the ear where prophylactic antibiotic treatment is also required;

steroid-responsive inflammatory conditions of the nose where prophylactic antibiotic treatment is also required;

for the treatment of the following conditions where secondary bacterial infection is present, suspected, or likely to occur:

eczema in adults and children (aged 2 years and over), including

atopic and discoid eczemas;

prurigo nodularis;

psoriasis (excluding widespread plaque psoriasis);

neurodermatoses including lichen simplex and lichen planus;

seborrhoeic dermatitis;

contact sensitivity reactions;

insect bite reactions;

anal and genital intertrigo.

in combination with bacitracin (an anti-bacterial) for:

superficial bacterial infection of the skin, such as impetigo, varicose ulcers, pressure sores, trophic ulcers and burns.

in combination with dexamethasone (a steroid) and polymyxin B (an anti-bacterial) for:

the short-term treatment of steroid responsive conditions of the eye when prophylactic antibiotic treatment is also required, after excluding the presence of fungal and viral disease.

in combination with chlorhexidine gluconate as a nasal cream for:

the eradication of nasal infection with, and carriage of, staphylococci.

with triamcinolone acetonide (a steroid), gramicidin and nystatin (anti-infectives) for:

the treatment of corticosteroid sensitive dermatoses complicated by infections due to micro-organisms sensitive to the anti-infectives.

in tablet form for:

pre-operative sterilisation of the bowel. It may also be useful in the treatment of impending hepatic coma, including portal systemic encephalopathy.

Usage of neomycin in England is shown in the following table.

	Prescription items dispensed in the community (Thousand)	Net ingredient cost for the community (£000)	Estimated cost of hospital prescriptions (£000)
2001	364.6	565.7	359.8
2002	347.1	539.3	376.5
2003	363.9	566.3	375.4
2004	348.1	562.5	400.0
2005	361.7	611.7	327.9

Source:
Community: Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system
Hospitals: IMS Health: Hospital Pharmacy Audit

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to reply to the hon. Member for Billericay's letter dated 8 March concerning Mr. O'Reilly. [133759]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I regret the letter was not received by the Department. If the hon. Member would forward a copy I will arrange for it to be dealt with urgently.

Mental Health Services: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's estimated funding is for child and adolescent mental health services in each of the next five years; and what objectives she has set for the use of such funding. [130305]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In December 2005 the Department announced that £88.214 million will be allocated to local authorities in 2007-08 via the child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) grant. This grant is to be used by local authorities to improve CAMHS, in accordance with local needs and priorities, as set out in local CAMHS development strategies. In 2006-07, £50 million was made available to strategic health authorities for CAMHS as part of a larger bundle of revenue funding for the national health service. The annual CAMHS mapping exercise shows that overall expenditure on specialist CAMHS increased from £431million in 2004-05 to a projected £513 million in 2005-06, an increase of 19 per cent.

Funding for CAMHS beyond 2007-08 is being considered as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). It is anticipated that details of the CSR settlement will be announced in autumn 2007.

Multiple Sclerosis: Charities

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effects of fees for annual inspections from the Healthcare Commission on charitable not-for-profit multiple sclerosis therapy centres. [121448]

Andy Burnham: Annual fees to cover the cost of providing assessment and registration services are approved by the Secretary of State for Health, after consideration of proposals submitted by the Healthcare Commission. Assessment of the effects of fees is therefore for the Commission in the first instance.

The Healthcare Commission consulted on its 2007-08 independent healthcare sector fee proposals between 20 December 2006 and 20 February 2007. I understand from the Chairman of the Commission that during the consultation period it received numerous representations from providers asking that fees should be reduced for hospices and voluntarily funded establishments using type 3 hyperbaric oxygen chambers.

The Healthcare Commission revised its proposals after considering the comments it received. For 2007-08, annual fees for multiple sclerosis therapy centres have been reduced from £1,566 to £1,225, a reduction of 22 per cent. This is the first time that regulatory fees under the Care Standards Act 2000 have been reduced. Fees for first time registrations have increased from £907 to £990.

NHS Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 442-43W, on NHS Direct, what the average cost per call to NHS Direct was in the most recent period for which figures are available in the same format as that provided in the answer to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) of 8 September 2003, *Official Report*, column 236W, on NHS Direct. [131885]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally. This is a matter for the chief executive of the new NHS Direct NHS Trust.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Healthcare Commission expects to publish its interim report on the review of independent sector treatment centres. [133204]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* I understand the Healthcare Commission (HC) has decided not to publish an interim report on the quality of clinical care provided by the independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) because of problems with the quality and coverage of the initial ISTC data. They took the view that publishing an interim report would present only a partial and confusing picture of the findings of the review. As a result of the improvement in the data quality and completeness of the ISTC submissions, the HC felt that the review would be best serviced by focusing efforts on producing the final report, not an interim publication.

NHS: Complaints

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* second and *(b)* third stage complaints have been processed through the NHS complaints procedure in each of the last five years. [128720]

Andy Burnham: Since July 2004 to date, the Healthcare Commission has responsibility for independent review (the second stage of the national health service complaints process) of complaints which have not been satisfactorily resolved by the provider at the first stage. Prior to July 2004, the NHS itself was responsible for reviewing complaints at the second stage, through independent review panels. Therefore the sets of data have been collected by two separate organisations, produced in different ways and consequently are not directly comparable. The Healthcare Commission has provided the following information on cases received for review, and numbers completed:

	Received	Completed
31 July 2004-31 March 2005	5,867	839
1 April 2005-31 March 2006	7,644	7,366
1 April 2006 to date	7,505	9,421
Total	21,016	17,626

The following information relates to cases processed at second stage by the NHS prior to July 2004, on cases requesting independent review, and cases referred to independent review panels within each year:

	Requests	Referred to independent review panel
2001-02	3,339	606
2002-03	3,600	450
2003-04	3,739	416
1 April 2004-30 July 2004	997	324

Note

Not all requests would have been referred to an independent panel, but they would all have undergone some degree of second stage process in order to determine whether consideration by an independent review panel would be appropriate.

Complaints that are not resolved at stage two may be referred to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO), the third stage of the complaints procedure. Therefore information on numbers of NHS complaints processed at the third stage is held by the PHSO and is not collected by the Department of Health nor held centrally. The information can be obtained by request to the PHSO direct at www.ombudsman.org.uk

NHS: Finance

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on NHS financial performance in the year 2006-07. [133180]

Andy Burnham: On the basis of results reported at quarter 3 2006-07, we believe that the national health service is on course to at least deliver a balanced financial position at the end of the 2006-07 and continues to perform well against key service targets.

This strengthened financial position is a clear sign that the NHS is delivering against the strict financial targets we have set, and be in a position to start 2007-08 in robust financial health.

NHS: IT

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what audit has been undertaken of the deliverability of the volume of clinical bookings it is planned to make on the new NHS IT system. [132074]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* Proof of solution testing before the system went live in 2004 demonstrated that the choose and book system would be able to perform satisfactorily when dealing with the design target for bookings during the peak hour, that is some 8,400 bookings per hour, which is equivalent to 15.8 million bookings per year. This test was repeated in 2005.

In addition, as part of the 2004 tests a scalability test was conducted to demonstrate that the system could scale beyond the peak hour rate (8,400). The system was tested up to 280 per cent. of the peak hour level (up to 23,000 bookings per hour).

The capacity and performance of the system is kept under regular review to ensure that it remains fit for purpose, including any expansion of the system to deal with additional bookings.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing a common assessment framework, as referred to in paragraph 5.26 of her Department's White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say". [131915]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has convened a policy collaborative, which includes representation from a range of stakeholders across health and social care, to advise on the development of policy proposals for a common assessment framework for adults. The policy collaborative has met three times since it was launched in October 2006.

Obesity

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were diagnosed as (i) overweight and (ii) obese in each year since 1997; and what estimate she has made of the number of (A) adults and (B) children who were (i) overweight and (ii) obese in each year since 1997. [131861]

Caroline Flint: The main source of data on the prevalence of overweight and obesity among children and adults is the Health Survey for England (HSE). The information is not available in the format requested. The information on the estimated number of overweight and obese adults and children in England is unavailable, as the HSE reports on percentages rather than the numbers.

Table 1 sets out the proportion of men and women who are overweight and obese in England from 1997 to 2005.

Table 1: Overweight and obesity prevalence among adults, by gender, 1997 to 2005, England

Percentage

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Unweighted[a] 2003	2004	2005	Weighted[a] 2003	2004	2005
Men												
Overweight	45.2	45.5	43.9	44.5	46.6	43.4	44.4	45.5	43.4	43.2	43.9	42.6
Obese	17.0	17.3	18.7	21.0	21.0	22.1	22.9	23.6	22.1	22.2	22.7	21.2
Women												
Overweight	32.8	32.1	32.8	33.8	32.9	33.7	33.4	34.7	32.9	32.6	33.9	32.1
Obese	19.7	21.2	21.1	21.4	23.5	22.8	23.4	23.8	21.9	23.0	23.2	21.5
Bases												
Men	3,685	6,600	3,204	3,260	6,267	2,969	5,966	2,444	2,930	6,519	2,772	3,144
Women	4,254	7,730	3,699	3,703	7,414	3,509	7,090	3,135	3,409	6,570	2,812	3,184

Note:
Data from 2003 onwards have been weighted for non-response. Unweighted data for 2003 onwards are provided for consistency with previous years which are also unweighted.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2005—updating of trend tables to include 2005 data. The Information Centre

Table 2 sets out the proportion of boys and girls who are overweight or obese in England, from 1997 to 2005.

Table 2: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children aged 2 to 15, by gender, 1997 to 2005, England

Percentage

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Unweighted[a] 2003	2004	2005	Weighted 2003	2004	2005
Boys												
Overweight	13.0	14.6	14.4	12.4	15.0	13.7	14.6	13.7	15.9	14.6	13.9	15.7
Obese	12.7	13.0	16.4	14.5	15.5	16.9	17.0	18.9	18.0	17.0	19.2	18.3
Girls												
Overweight	13.1	13.6	13.5	12.7	15.2	13.9	14.4	16.3	12.8	14.6	16.6	12.9
Obese	12.4	13.8	13.7	14.2	14.5	17.1	16.1	17.8	18.1	16.1	18.5	18.3
Bases (weighted)												
Boys	3,063	1,981	977	877	1,653	3,745	1,410	645	1,077	1,452	624	1,102
Girls	3,069	1,872	950	841	1,699	3,636	1,444	579	1,135	1,393	581	1,091

Note:
From 2003 data were also weighted for non response. Data weighted for child selection only are provided for consistency with previous years.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2005 - updating of trend tables to include 2005 data. The Information Centre

Obesity: Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many primary care trusts *(a)* have set up and *(b)* are in the process of setting up weight management clinics; [131650]

(2) how many GP practices have established weight management services within their clinics. [131651]

Caroline Flint: There are 13 national health service operated obesity clinics for children and adults located across England. Information on the number of primary care trusts (PCTs) who are in the process of setting up weight management clinics and the number of general practitioner practices that have established weight management services within their clinics is not held centrally.

It is up to PCTs as local commissioners and providers of services to determine the most appropriate methods to deliver health care to their populations, based on clinical need and effectiveness, as well as local circumstances, drawing on the available evidence.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of her Department's funding is spent on obesity mangement services. [131652]

Caroline Flint: Managing obesity is a complex issue with no simple solution as it is both a cause and consequence of many physiological and psychological health problems. In addition, it requires partnership working at a national and local level, primary care trusts and local authorities are the key delivery organisations in preventing and managing obesity. It is up to these organisations, as local commissioners and providers of services, to determine the most appropriate methods to

deliver health care to their populations, including interventions on obesity. Decisions are based on clinical need and effectiveness, as well as local circumstances, drawing on the available evidence. As these services are commissioned locally and are likely to range from clinical interventions to community based services, it is difficult to make any assessment of overall spending in this area, as we do not have detailed breakdown of funding.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps her Department is taking to ensure compliance with National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on obesity; [131653]

(2) what resources will be made available in order to meet the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on obesity in 2007-08. [131670]

Caroline Flint: NICE (National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence) guidance is explicitly included in Standards for Better Health, which sets out the Government's high level expectations for the health service. The developmental standards on clinical and cost effectiveness and public health require that national health service organisations should be making progress towards implementation of NICE clinical guidelines and public health including the guidance on obesity. It is anticipated that assessment by the Healthcare Commission of progress in implementing NICE obesity guidance will be made as part of the 2007-08 annual health check.

Primary care trusts, as local commissioners and providers of services, determine the most appropriate methods to deliver health care to their populations, based on clinical need and effectiveness, as well as local circumstances, drawing on the available evidence.

Out-patients: Gravesend Hospital

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her estimate is of the change in the number of patients missing appointments since clinics were transferred from Gravesend Hospital to Darent Valley Hospital. [130995]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who drafted the original *Official Journal* of the European Union notice on primary care trust commissioning published on 29 June 2006; [131763]

(2) what involvement Mr. Paul Corrigan had in drafting the original *Official Journal* of the European Union notice on primary care trusts commissioning published on *(a)* 29 June 2006 and *(b)* subsequent versions; [131764]

(3) which *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers, (c) officials and *(d)* non-departmental staff (i) saw and (ii) signed off the original *Official Journal* of the European Union notice on primary care trusts commissioning published on 29 June 2006 before it was published. [131768]

Andy Burnham: The *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) notice was published on 17 June 2006 and was drafted by the Department of Health's Commercial Directorate. The Prime Minister's special adviser for health was not involved in the drafting of the notice or subsequent versions.

Where a procurement neither constitutes a major policy announcement, nor carries major financial risk to the Secretary of State, a Director General has delegated authority to act, and can sign off an OJEU notice. Under this authority, and following normal process, the Director General of the Commercial Directorate signed off the OJEU notice published on 17 June.

Prisons: Drugs

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 552W, on Prisons: Drugs, over what time scale the funding announced on 28 September 2004 is planned to be spent. [130435]

Caroline Flint: In 2004 the Department announced funding for the clinical element of integrated drug treatment system (IDTS) of £20 million in 2006-07 rising to £40 million in 2007-08. This was reduced to £12 million in 2006-07 following the wider review of the Department spending. For 2007-08 the Department's funding will rise to £12.7 million.

Alongside this, the Home Office funded the psycho-social elements of IDTS, investing £5 million in 2006-07. This contribution is expected to rise to around £6 million for 2007-08.

Pseudoephedrine

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will publish the advice she has received on making over the counter medicines containing pseudoephedrine available on prescription only. [126845]

Caroline Flint: There has been increasing concern from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) that pseudoephedrine and ephedrine can be extracted from over the counter (OTC) remedies relatively easily and used in the manufacture of methylamphetamine. Methylamphetamine was reclassified on 18 January 2007 by the Home Office as a Class A controlled drug, based on the recommendation of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD).

Although the prevalence of misuse of methylamphetamine is believed to be currently low in the United Kingdom, ACPO are receiving increasing levels of intelligence about the prevalence of methylamphetamine. If methylamphetamine did secure a hold in the UK, the consequences would undoubtedly be very serious. The international experience shows that misuse can spread rapidly when certain conditions prevail and the advice of UK enforcement authorities is that most of these conditions now prevail in the UK.

In January 2007 the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) considered the evidence of a risk to public health from OTC availability of the precursors

to methylamphetamine, pseudoephedrine and ephedrine. The evidence to date centres on advice from ACPO and SOCA that the availability of methylamphetamine is increasing, evidenced in part by the increase in the number of illicit laboratories manufacturing methylamphetamine found by the police in the UK. The police have identified in specific cases that multiple packs of particular pharmacy pseudoephedrine containing products had been purchased and used in the illicit manufacture of methylamphetamine. They have also identified that, in part, these packs were obtained from numerous pharmacies to obtain adequate quantities for manufacturing.

The CHM recommended that changing the legal status of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine together with restricting the pack size was necessary to protect public health in the UK and that a consultation exercise should be conducted on these proposals. Ministers accepted this advice and a full public consultation exercise commenced on 7 March 2007 and can be accessed via the MHRA's website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk

Smoking

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans her Department has to publicise the change in the age at which tobacco can legally be purchased; [130924]

(2) what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on measures to ensure that the increase in the age for the legal purchase of tobacco is not accompanied by abuse, intimidation or violence as a result of refusal of sale; and if she will make a statement. [130994]

Caroline Flint: The change in the minimum age for selling tobacco from 16 to 18 will come into force on 1 October 2007. Communication plans are in development and the Department is in discussion with key stakeholders. The Department will focus on publicising the change in age to the two most affected groups: retailers and teenagers.

The Department and Home Office have discussed the issue at official level. It is not expected that the rise in the age of sale will result in serious intimidation or violence against shopkeepers. This has not been the experience in other countries for example like Ireland where the minimum age for tobacco sale has been changed recently. Trading Standards guidance for retailers will include advice on handling intimidation by customers refused sale because they cannot prove that they meet the minimum age.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations she has received on the implementation of the smoking ban in working men's clubs; and if she will make a statement. [131988]

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received on the effect on the viability of working men's clubs of the introduction of the smoking ban. [132582]

Caroline Flint: Working men's clubs and other such clubs have been consulted at all stages of consideration of the Health Act 2006 and its implementation. We continue to work closely with organisations representing working men's clubs in the run up to the implementation of the smoke free provisions of the Health Act 2006 on 1 July 2007.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to inform owners of restaurants, hotels and public houses of the smoking ban which comes into place on 1 July. [133471]

Caroline Flint: Through the Smokefree England campaign, the Department is delivering a major communications campaign to support businesses to be prepared for the implementation of smokefree legislation on Sunday, 1 July 2007. Recent surveys by the Department show extremely high levels of awareness among the hospitality industry and customers.

Information on the new law is available from the freephone Smokefree England information line on 0800 169 169 7 and on the Smokefree England website at www.smokefreeengland.co.uk. The website has received nearly 250,000 visits to date.

The Department has developed a range of guides on the new law. A guidance pack, including a guide, no-smoking signs and other support materials is being sent to all businesses in England that employ staff during April. Guidance documents can be downloaded from the Smokefree England website, and will be available in a range of different languages and formats, including a downloadable MP3 audio version.

A Ministerial Reference Group comprising key stakeholders was created last year to facilitate dialogue between business groups including representatives from the hospitality industry, local government and the Department, and has met regularly. The Department also continues to work closely with organisations that represent the hospitality industry to increase awareness of the new legislation among their constituents.

Local councils are also working to build compliance in their communities. Local businesses are advised to contact their local council for advice and support in implementing smoke free legislation.

Written Questions

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when she expects to reply to question 109396, on accident and emergency services for heart disease and stroke patients, tabled by the hon. Member for St. Ives on 11 December 2006; [132903]

(2) when she expects to reply to question 109385, on heart disease and stroke patients, tabled by the hon. Member for St Ives on 11 December 2006. [132966]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: A reply has been given today.

York Capio Centre

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2052-54W, on the York Capio Centre, why the Minister cannot release information about *(a)* the number of procedures contracted and carried out for NHS patients at this centre and *(b)* the relative cost to the primary care trust of purchasing procedures from this centre and York NHS Hospital Trust; and if she will make a statement. [127288]

Andy Burnham: The Clifton Park National Health Service Treatment Centre is expected to deliver approximately 10,000 procedures over the five year contract period. At the end of January 1,817 procedures had been delivered for NHS patients. Primary care trusts pay for the services provided at NHS tariff or at costs equivalent to the NHS costs for such services.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Democratic Republic of Congo

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect he expects recent political violence in Democratic Republic of the Congo to have on the repatriation of failed asylum seekers to that country. [132303]

Mr. Byrne: Asylum and human rights claims made by those from the Democratic Republic of Congo continue to be considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and taking full account of the latest available information about the conditions in the country as they impact on the individual claimant.

Asylum: Sudan

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers from Darfur *(a)* applied for asylum and *(b)* were returned to Sudan in each of the last four years. [132515]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not available in the format requested. The Border and Immigration Agency does not electronically record the region from which asylum applicants originate. That information would be available only by examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Information on the nationality of asylum applications and removals is published quarterly and annually. Information on the number of asylum applicants removed from the UK, broken down by nationality, is produced regularly in the annual Asylum Bulletin. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office research, development and statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Crime: Alcoholic Drinks

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact of alcohol consumption on crime; and what data he collects on this. [133680]

Mr. Coaker: There are two main sources of information on alcohol-related crime: the British crime survey and the offending, crime and justice survey.

The BCS provides information on the proportion of violent incidents in England and Wales where the offender was thought to be under the influence of alcohol. According to the latest BCS (2005-06) the offender was thought to be under the influence of alcohol in 44 per cent. of violent incidents, which is approximately the same as the figure for the previous year (48 per cent.). The estimated number of violent incidents where the offender was thought to be under the influence of alcohol was 1,029,000 based on the BCS interviews in 2005-06.

The OCJS asks questions about people's participation in alcohol-related crime and disorder. The 2005 OCJS found that being drunk once a month or more was a risk factor for offending among 10 to 25-year-olds. Further analysis of the 2003 survey revealed that, among 18 to 24-year-olds, those respondents identified as 'binge drinkers' (defined as those who drank alcohol and felt very drunk at least once a month in the last 12 months) were more likely to offend than other regular drinkers and non-drinkers. Young male binge drinkers were twice as likely to commit a violent offence than other young male regular drinkers. Binge drinkers were also more likely to commit criminal or disorderly behaviour (such as getting into a fight or damaging something) during or after drinking than other regular drinkers.

The 2004 OCJS found that among those aged between 10 and 17 years old, those who drank once a week or more committed more offences than those who drank less frequently or not at all. Again, a higher proportion of those who drank alcohol once a week or more reported committing criminal damage and theft offences during or after drinking than those who drank less frequently.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was allocated to tackling *(a)* gun crime and *(b)* knife crime in each round of funding from the connected fund programme since its introduction; and to which groups that funding was given. [131216]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* Since being established in May 2004, the connected fund has allocated approximately £1.2 million over five rounds, funding 300 projects in England and Wales. The projects funded focus on tackling gun crime, knife crime and gangs. Many of the projects cover a wide range of issues with the aim of helping young people at risk of becoming involved in violent crime, and it is not possible to identify an exact figure spent specifically on gun crime or knife crime from the fund.

Full details of projects funded can be found on the Connected website:

www.connected.gov.uk.

Domestic Violence

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many copies of the Domestic Violence: an MPs Guide *(a)* leaflet and *(b)* supplementary booklet were printed; what the cost was of each; and how they were distributed to hon. and right hon. Members. [128075]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The development of the guide came about as an action from the inter-ministerial group on domestic violence. Its intention is to provide MPs with information on what they can do if they are approached by a constituent affected by domestic violence.

We initially placed 23 mock-up copies of the guide in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament on 6 March. A further 30 mock-up copies were distributed at an event attended by MPs on 6 March. We have printed a further 1,000 guides, 23 of which will replace the mock-up in both Libraries.

To reach a wider audience and ensure greater distribution of this resource, PDF versions of both the leaflet and a supplementary booklet are available on the Home Office's Crime Reduction website. The supplementary booklet will not been printed.

The cost of producing the leaflet and supplementary booklet was approximately £1,500. The production costs for 1,000 copies were £380.69, and the design service costs, based on 30 hours work at £36.40 per hour, were £1,092.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1507W, on domestic violence, in how many and what percentage of domestic violence incidents dealt with by the police *(a)* the presence and *(b)* the residence of a child present was recorded at the incident. [133240]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of incidences of domestic violence reported to each police force involved *(a)* male and *(b)* female victims in each of the last five years. [133309]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1222W. This gave figures from the British Crime Survey for incidents of domestic violence in England and Wales. The BCS does not have these data at police force area level and so the information requested is not available.

Fines: EC Law

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to implement the EU Council framework decision 2005/214/JHA on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to financial penalties. [132950]

Joan Ryan: We are working towards implementation of the framework decision but it is not yet possible to indicate when we will do so because primary legislation will be required for implementation in England and Wales.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which agency is responsible for the welfare of victims of child trafficking once they have been identified. [132751]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: Local authority children's services have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children including those that are thought to have been trafficked. Following an assessment of their circumstances and under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, a local authority has a duty to provide accommodation for any child within its area if it considers that the child is in need of care. Using the powers vested in them by the Children Act 1989 where there is a risk to the life of the child or a likelihood of serious harm, the local authority or police are required to act quickly to secure the immediate safety of the child.

Immigration: Telephone Services

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many calls were received by his Department's immigration matters helplines from hon. Members' offices in each year since 2001. [133017]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: The Border and Immigration Agency MPs' hotline received 119,695 telephone calls from Members of Parliament, the House of Lords and members of the devolved assemblies during the period 1 June 2003 to 31 March 2007, which is the only period where statistical information is available.

Police: Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* non-emergency and *(b)* hate crime incidents were recorded and submitted through the police.uk website in the most recent year for which figures are available. [128849]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 March 2007]*: All forces have their own websites that were linked to the police portal. The portal had a national crime and hate crime incident reporting facility as well as other capabilities including message broadcasting. However, the portal was not well used by the public and few forces used its other capabilities. The links have therefore been suspended and the Association of Chief Police Officers and the National Policing Improvement Agency are working together to find an alternative solution that recognises forces internal capability. In

the period January 2006 to February 2007 52,321 non-emergency and 2,827 hate crime incidents were submitted.

Prisons: Smuggling

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many HM Prison Service employees are being monitored as suspected of trafficking contraband; and if he will make a statement. [132972]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Staff corruption investigations are undertaken by prisons or at area manager level and information of this type is not collected centrally. It could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Tobacco

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the black market currency value of *(a)* a single cigarette, *(b)* a standard packet of 20 cigarettes and *(c)* 50 grams of hand-rolling tobacco in each prison establishment where a total no smoking ban has been introduced; and if he will make a statement. [132973]

Mr. Sutcliffe: None. Strategies are in place to manage the security risks posed by contraband and other articles which can be used as currency in a prison setting. Discipline issues have been taken into account in drawing up arrangements to implement anti-smoking legislation in prisons.

Schools: Crime

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences against the person carried out on school property were reported to police in each year since 1997; and how many of these offences involved as the victim *(a)* a teacher, *(b)* a pupil, *(c)* other staff and *(d)* a parent, broken down by local authority area. [133268]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available from the recorded crime statistics. Offences occurring on school property cannot be separately identified and no data is collected on the status of victims.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* theft and *(b)* criminal damage from (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools were reported to police in each year since 1997; and how many and what percentage of those cases resulted in the arrest of a school pupil, broken down by local authority area. [133270]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available from the recorded crime statistics. Offences occurring on school property cannot be separately identified and information is not collected on the status of those arrested.

Vladimir Ismaili

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why the Albanian Vladimir Ismaili was granted bail after his recent conviction for human trafficking following a joint investigation by Manchester and Warwickshire police; and whether he has been recaptured. [132752]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: The decision of whether to bail or remand a defendant into custody is at the discretion of the court which must follow the clearly set out procedures in the Bail Act 1976. It would not be appropriate for the Government to pass comment on the actions of the court in this particular case.

Mr. Ismaili was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment in his absence on 22 December 2006 for false imprisonment, two counts of trafficking within the UK for sexual exploitation, causing or inciting prostitution for gain and blackmail, and is still at large. A warrant for his arrest has been issued by the court.

Youth Justice Board

Mr. Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 976W, on the Youth Justice Board, if he will provide a list of the Youth Justice Board's research studies and the corporate targets and outcome measures to which each relates. [131415]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Youth Justice Board has published a list of its research studies and the corporate targets to which each relates in the Youth Justice Board Research Strategy 2006-08. I have arranged for a copy to be placed in the Library of both Houses. The report is also available on the YJB website at http://www.yjb.gov.uk.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons Commission: Manpower

Mr. Maples: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many people are employed by the Commission; and how many of those employees earn over £60,000 per annum. [132980]

Nick Harvey: As at 31 March 2007, the Commission employed 1,657 staff of which 85 were paid at an annual rate of over £60,000.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Health Professions

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures his Department has in place to assist developing countries in retaining their health workers. [132858]

Mr. Thomas: In last year's International White Paper, DFID committed to help developing countries solve their staffing crises by supporting training.

providing staff incentives to work in underserved countries and increasing support for community health workers.

In Malawi, DFID has provided £100 million over six years to fund an innovative emergency human resource programme to support the training, recruitment and retention of health workers. This programme will double the number of Malawian nurses and treble the number of Malawian doctors.

The UK has drawn up a code of conduct for the international recruitment of healthcare professionals. This actively prevents the NHS from recruiting health workers from low and middle-income countries unless there is a Government-Government agreement in place to manage the process.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what work is being undertaken by his Department to assist developing countries in tackling mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS. [132859]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is intensifying action on tackling mother to child transmission of HIV at country level. In Zimbabwe, DFID has initiated a £25 million project specifically to address maternal and newborn health and HIV. In Malawi, where DFID is the major donor in the health sector, with an investment of £100 million over the period 2004-10, a rapid scale-up in preventing mother to child transmission (PMTCT) services is taking place. During 2005, 5,000 of 7,000 HIV positive pregnant women received a complete course of antiretroviral prophylaxis. In Zambia, we support UNICEF's expansion of PMTCT.

In 2006 DFID supported research in the Republic of Congo and Uganda which demonstrated that pregnant women with HIV are between four to five times more likely to die as a result of pregnancy and childbirth than non-infected women. DFID is tackling stigma and discrimination that prevents women accessing PMTCT by funding education and mass-media campaigns in Angola, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

In addition to core funding to UNICEF, DFID has provided over $1.5 million to an 'Accelerating Action for Children Affected by HIV and AIDS' programme. This gives focus to the "4 Ps—Protection, Prevention, PMTCT and Paediatric AIDS". DFID is also participating in a US-led HIV and AIDS paediatric public-private partnership which seeks to develop formulations of HIV drugs suitable for children in developing countries together with the pharmaceutical industry.

HIV Infection: Drugs

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to remove trade barriers that prevent the production and distribution of generic medicines for HIV/AIDS. [132857]

Mr. Thomas: We are working closely with our colleagues across Government to facilitate access to generic medicines.

For World Trade Organisation members, trade in medicines is governed by the agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS). We are pleased that TRIPS has been permanently amended to allow for generic versions of patented medicines to be produced and exported under compulsory licence. EU producers are able to use this system, which was implemented by legislation agreed under the UK's presidency of the EU.

DFID is working with a number of international organisations, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to help developing countries to build capacity so that they are able to make use of the TRIPS flexibilities provisions related to the production and distribution of generic medicines, including those for HIV/AIDS.

World Bank

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the Government's position regarding Paul Wolfowitz's presidency of the World Bank. [132937]

Hilary Benn: At the spring meetings of the World Bank on 15 April, I and my fellow Governors agreed the following section of the development committee communiqué, dealing with the allegations against President Wolfowitz:

"We have to ensure that the Bank can effectively carry out its mandate and maintain its credibility and reputation, as well as the motivation of its staff. The current situation is of great concern to all of us. We endorse the board's actions in looking into this matter, and we asked it to complete its work. We expect the Bank to adhere to a high standard of internal governance."

We expect the World Bank executive directors to meet again this week to discuss the next steps.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ambulance Services: Standards

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average journey time was for ambulances stationed at each hospital in Northern Ireland to respond to emergency calls in their catchment area in the last period for which figures are available; and on how many occasions this average was exceeded by more than 50 per cent. [132891]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not held centrally and will take some time to collate. I will write to the hon. Gentleman as soon as the information becomes available and place a copy in the Library.

Desmond Clayton

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 190W, on Desmond Clayton, whether his Department *(a)* gave and *(b)* approved any job reference for Mr. Clayton after the termination of his employment at the Northern Ireland Police Fund. [133472]

Paul Goggins: The Department neither gave nor approved any job reference for Mr. Clayton after the termination of his employment at the Northern Ireland Police Fund.

Football: World Cup

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the inclusion of Northern Ireland in a bid to host the 2018 football World Cup. [133063]

Maria Eagle: I have had no discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport as the Government study, published in February 2007, was to assess the feasibility of holding a future World Cup in England.

Further Education: Student Wastage

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the drop-out rates of each further and higher education institution in Northern Ireland were in each of the last three years; what assessment he has made of the impact of the payment of tuition fees on drop-out rates; and what funding has been allocated by his Department to reducing drop-out rates. [133061]

Maria Eagle: Non-continuation rates for each of the Northern Ireland further education institutions for the last three years are shown in the following table:

College	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Armagh College	8	7	12
Belfast Institute	14	17	20
Castlereagh College	16	11	18
Causeway Institute	24	23	20
East Antrim Institute	7	9	15
East Down Institute	8	11	17
East Tyrone College	16	17	17
Fermanagh College	10	12	12
Limavady College	22	21	16
Lisburn Institute	10	10	14
Newry and Kilkeel Institute	10	9	12
North Down and Ards Institute	8	12	18
North East Institute	17	10	12
North West Institute	12	14	16
Omagh College	7	10	15
Upper Bann Institute	19	18	15
Total	13	13	16

Source:
FESR

The latest available data on non-continuation rates for full-time first degree entrants for each of the higher education institutions is shown in the following table:

University	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*
Queen's University, Belfast	6.6	6.9	8.1
St. Mary's University College	4.0	6.8	6.4
Stranmillis University College	2.4	1.9	3.9
University of Ulster	12.6	12.8	14.7
Total	6.4	7.1	8.3

No assessment has yet been made of the impact of the payment of (variable) tuition fees on drop-out rates. It is likely that this has had minimal impact as students in the system prior to September 2006 are unaffected by the new arrangements. Furthermore, from academic year 2006-07, a new student finance package has also been introduced to ensure that new entrants from lower income backgrounds are not disadvantaged by the new arrangements. A review of the new arrangements, including participation rates, is planned for 2008-09.

The Department for Employment and Learning allocates a total of £4.6 million annually to the further education colleges and higher education institutions in the form of support funds. These funds are specifically earmarked for the purpose of providing assistance for students who may be discouraged from participating in further or higher education due to financial hardship. These funds provide a greater safety net and help to reduce drop-out rates among students experiencing financial difficulties after starting their course.

The Department also pays the universities a widening participation premium for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Funding of £1.25 million is provided to cover the costs incurred in recruiting and retaining students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are more likely to drop out.

Graffiti

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer of 6 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 196W, on graffiti, for what reasons the Department of the Environment does not hold information on the cost of removing graffiti. [133230]

David Cairns: Under Article 18 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 it is for district councils to decide whether or not to remove graffiti. They do not, therefore, have a duty to remove it and there is no requirement on the Department of the Environment to collect data on graffiti removal costs. The information may be held by individual district councils.

Higher Education: Pay

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in resolving the pay dispute in higher education in Northern Ireland. [133335]

Maria Eagle: There is no pay dispute in higher education, although the further education lecturers' pay claim was not recommended for approval by the public sector pay committee. College employers and lecturers' trade unions have now been asked to re-engage in order to prepare revised pay proposals, in line with pay policy guidelines. The Department will

continue to liaise with the further education sector on the scope for devising amended pay proposals within the limits set by pay policy.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the implications of the increase in the estimated cost of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games for the allocation of funding to lottery good causes in *(a)* North Down and *(b)* Northern Ireland. [133070]

Maria Eagle: The allocation and distribution of Lottery funds is a reserved matter with responsibility lying with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The decision on the Lottery will be subject to affirmative resolutions in both Houses.

Paedophilia

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what meetings have taken place in 2007 between the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and senior representatives of the Roman Catholic church about child sexual abuse; and what information about child sexual abuse was provided at these meetings in relation to *(a)* each diocese fully within Northern Ireland and *(b)* each diocese that straddles the border with the Republic of Ireland. [132890]

Paul Goggins: To date, there have been no joint meetings in 2007 between the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and senior representatives of the Roman Catholic church about child sexual abuse.

Physical Education

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many hours of physical education per week were provided to school children in schools in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; and what steps he is taking to increase the time provided. [133069]

Maria Eagle: The Department does not collect the information requested. The education and training inspectorate monitors the provision of PE, and other aspects of the curriculum, as part of routine inspection in schools. While the Department does not specify the amount of time schools should spend on any particular subject, schools are encouraged to provide at least two hours of physical activity per week. It is for schools to determine how much time is devoted to PE, which is a compulsory part of the revised curriculum for all pupils from foundation to key stage 4.

Physical Education: Teachers

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time physical education teachers there were in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years. [133066]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education does not hold this information. However, I have been advised by the chief executives of the five education and library boards and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, who employ teachers that the south eastern, western and Belfast ELBs and CCMS do not hold this information and that staffing is a matter for individual boards of governors.

The Southern ELB has advised that it holds current information only. It has 67 physical education teachers, 43 of whom teach on a full-time basis, while the remaining 24 also teach other subjects.

The north eastern ELB has also advised that it holds current information only. It has 87 full-time and four part-time physical education teachers.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Payments

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the total unpaid rent to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in each district in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [132427]

Mr. Hanson: The Northern Ireland Housing Executive's total rent and rates arrears is £11,407,571 out of a total rent bill of £265 million. The rent and rates arrears have accumulated over previous years.

The following table details the amount of rent and arrears owed by current Housing Executive tenants split by district office at 31 March 2007.

NIHE district office	*Rent and rate arrears at 31 March 2007 (£)*
Belfast 1	383,262
Belfast 2	598,945
Belfast 3	330,779
Belfast 4	665,658
Belfast 5	598,750
Belfast 6	421,302
Belfast 7	673,274
Bangor	501,238
Newtownards	472,461
Castlereagh	583,634
Lisburn	530,568
Lisburn 3	320,878
Downpatrick	292,731
Banbridge	200,385
Newry	303,460
Armagh	137,651
Lurgan/Brownlow	239,407
Portadown	203,049
Dungannon	193,894
Fermanagh	163,350
Ballymena	201,858
Antrim	228,827
Newtownabbey 1	280,484
Newtownabbey 2	205,091

NIHE district office	Rent and rate arrears at 31 March 2007 (£)
Carrick	198,817
Larne	125,044
Ballycastle	78,137
Ballymoney	101,534
Coleraine	318,687
Waterloo Place	177,438
Waterside	444,780
Collon Terrace	299,995
Limavady	193,376
Magherafelt	166,189
Strabane	253,259
Omagh	197,807
Cookstown	121,572
Northern Ireland total	11,407,571

Public Libraries: Bangor

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made with the renovation work to Bangor library's Hamilton road premises; how much the work was originally forecast to cost; whether the work is on budget and on schedule; when he expects the refurbished library to open; and if he will make a statement. [133113]

Maria Eagle: Work to refurbish and extend the Bangor library commenced on 2 April 2007 and is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete. The project has been approved at a cost of some £2.3 million and to date it is on budget and on schedule.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made by his Department in identifying a suitable permanent facility for Bangor library whilst renovation work is carried out at its Hamilton road premises. [133114]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure is the sponsor department for the Northern Ireland public library service but responsibility for delivering the service, including securing appropriate library accommodation for this area, rests with the south eastern education and library board (SEELB).

Since October 2006, the SEELB has been seeking to identify suitable alternative temporary premises and renovation work started during the week commencing 16 April 2007 on two units in the Flagship Shopping Centre to make them suitable for library use. Bangor library will open in these temporary premises by 21 May 2007 and will remain there until the completion of the new library in approximately 18 months. Until 21 May, a library service will be provided from a mobile library outside the Hamilton road library.

Queen's University Belfast: Medicine

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many graduate students (*a*) applied for and (*b*) enrolled in medical degrees at Queen's university, Belfast in each of the last five years. [133317]

Paul Goggins: The number of graduate entrants students applying for and enrolled in the school of medicine at Queen's university Belfast, is set out in the following table. The number of applicants in the period 2002-04 is not available.

Year of entry	Applicants	Entrants
2002	n/a	11
2003	n/a	5
2004	n/a	10
2005	68	15
2006	75	13

Source
QUB

Special Educational Needs

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many primary school children in Northern Ireland were given initial assessments by educational psychologists to determine special educational needs in each of the last five years, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [126321]

Maria Eagle: The number of primary school children who were given initial assessments by educational psychologists to determine special educational needs in each of the last five years is set out in the following tables. The figures refer to the first direct contact an educational psychologist had with a primary school pupil at any stage of the code of practice on the identification and assessment of special educational needs. This information is not available by parliamentary constituency as education and library board areas do not correspond to constituency areas. A response has therefore been provided by ELB area.

	BELB[1]	NEELB[1]	SEELB[1]
2002	645	606	611
2003	610	544	593
2004	521	590	601
2005	433	557	614
2006	396	488	598

[1] Calendar years

	SELB[2]	WELB[2]
2001-02	571	648
2002-03	668	760
2003-04	724	796
2004-05	810	656
2005-06	596	772

[1] Academic years
[2] Financial years

Specialist Schools

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many special schools have been built in Northern Ireland since 1986. [132425]

Maria Eagle: Since 1986, 21 special schools have been built in Northern Ireland. In addition, 11 special schools have had capital funding approved for the replacement of existing school buildings and these are either still in the planning stages or under construction.

Suicide

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what service will be provided to other areas of Northern Ireland for suicide prevention during the extended pilot period for the suicide prevention telephone helpline scheme. [133333]

Paul Goggins: In conjunction with the development of the telephone helpline pilot scheme, a substantial community support funding package has been rolled out to help communities with the development of initiatives that will help achieve a reduction in the levels of suicide and self-harm. Of the £1.9 million available to support the implementation the suicide prevention strategy in 2006-07, approximately £900,000 was allocated as part of this package. A sizeable portion of this funding was invested in those groups and organisations that specifically target people who are at a high risk of suicide, and who provide support for families bereaved by suicide.

In line with the increased funding of £3 million available for the implementation of the strategy in financial year 2007-08, the suicide strategy implementation body recently recommended to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety that the community support package funding should be doubled to £1.8 million. Allocations are currently under consideration.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

British Nuclear Group: Research

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether British Nuclear Group sites apart from Sellafield have retained body parts for scientific purposes; and whether consent to do so has always been sought. [133205]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend announced on 18 April that he had asked Mr. Michael Redfern QC to carry out an investigation into certain post mortem examinations and further analysis carried out at Sellafield. If it comes to light that anyone working at British Nuclear sites apart from Sellafield was affected, I would expect that information to be part of Mr. Redfern's considerations.

Business: Ethics

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what plans his Department has to improve corporate social responsibility; [132899]

(2) what steps he plans to take forward the Government's corporate social responsibility strategy. [132901]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* The Government encourage high standards of corporate behaviour and as such support the development and take up of corporate social responsibility. We do so by

raising awareness and promoting best practice;

setting decent minimum standards;

providing an enabling policy environment;

encouraging adherence to international standards of business behaviour.

CSR is a cross-Government agenda and the Government will continue to pursue this policy through:

supporting relevant international standards and initiatives.

For example, a tri-partite body of officials from DTI, DfID and FCO to promote the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises, the UN global compact which brings companies together with UN agencies, trade unions and civil society.

offering advice and guidance to business, for example, through Envirowise, WRAP and the Carbon Trust.

raising awareness and promoting best practice, for example through support for the business in the community annual awards for excellence and the CSR academy.

encouraging transparency for example through the business review requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many organisations joined the corporate social responsibility academy in each calendar year since it was established. [132900]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* The CSR Academy was not a membership organisation. It was set up to improve the take up and development of the skills and competences for CSR practice through:

the development and promotion of a framework of core skills needed to integrate CSR practices into organisations of any size.

the academy website which contained a training and development map that was used as a tool to signpost users to CSR training and development opportunities.

Between 2004 and 2006

Over 5,000 companies registered to use the framework.

Around 300 large companies and over 900 SMEs attended masterclasses and regional events.

Companies: Savings

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to ensure that money paid by employees into Christmas and holiday savings schemes administered by their employers is protected in the event that the company goes into administration. [126222]

Mr. McCartney: As we have recently announced, the Christmas savings scheme industry (also known as the hamper industry) will be introducing safeguards for pre-payments made by customers through independently controlled, ring-fenced trust accounts. The trust accounts will be controlled by independent

trustees, not by the companies, with money credited to customers in the event of the company going into insolvency.

Employees taking part in Christmas savings schemes administered by employers who have signed up to these proposals will receive the same protection as any other customer. Although the scheme is voluntary, we would expect new players to this industry to comply with these standards.

Departmental Reorganisation

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the future shape of his Department. [133865]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend regularly talks to the Chancellor of the Exchequer about a variety of issues.

Energy: Meters

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what consultation he has undertaken with *(a)* the Energy Retail Association, *(b)* companies in the energy sector and *(c)* manufacturers of energy metering devices on proposals to make smart meters available to every home. [132760]

Malcolm Wicks: Metering in both the domestic and business gas and electricity markets, including smart metering, was the subject of a recent public consultation as part of the energy review. The Department has also had further discussion with a range of interested parties, including the Energy Retail Association, energy suppliers and metering manufacturers. The Government will announce proposals on how to go forward on metering in the forthcoming energy White Paper.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the total cost of installing smart meters in every home in the United Kingdom. [132761]

Malcolm Wicks: In 2006, the industry regulator, the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) estimated that the total cost of installing and maintaining one-way smart meters could be up to £5-8 billion. The Government will set out their views on metering, including smart meters, in the energy White Paper.

Equal Opportunities: EC Countries

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will bring forward proposals to ensure the equal treatment of workers across the European Union. [133281]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The European Union has agreed a number of measures for the equal treatment of workers across the EU. Proposing any further measures is a matter for the European Commission, having consulted with the European social partners. Such measures must be agreed by both the European Council of Ministers and the European Parliament.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to increase funds for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme for *(a)* households and *(b)* (i) public, (ii) not for profit, and (iii) commercial organisations. [125423]

Malcolm Wicks: In October 2006, we reallocated funds from within the Low Carbon Buildings Programme to increase funds available to householders from £6.5 million to £12.7 million. In the Budget 2007, a further £6 million was made available for the household stream, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

In addition to this, £15.8 million has been made available for public, not for profit, and commercial organisations.

The Low Carbon Buildings Programme phase 2 has set aside £50 million for public and not for profit organisations.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to raise the level of funding caps for applications to the Low Carbon Buildings Programme for *(a)* households and *(b)* public, not for profit, and commercial organisations. [125424]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available for the household stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

In addition to this, £15.8 million has been made available for public, not for profit and commercial organisations.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to establish a waiting list for applications for grants from the Low Carbon Buildings Programme; and if he will make a statement. [125425]

Malcolm Wicks: In the Budget 2007, it was announced that an additional £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

Before deciding how to make best use of the extra funding, the household stream will be suspended for the monthly allocation in April so that it can be reshaped. Proposals will be brought forward in May.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the likely demand for household grants under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [126901]

Malcolm Wicks: Since the Low Carbon Buildings Programme was launched in April 2006, we have allocated £7.2 million to 4,550 household applicants.

In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household

stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

We aim to continue funding until June 2008, by which time some of our wider measures to promote microgeneration should be taking hold.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many households were allocated grants under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme on 1 March 2007; and what advice he is giving households who were unsuccessful in their applications to the programme. [126902]

Malcolm Wicks: We allocated Low Carbon Buildings Programme grants to 189 household applicants in March 2007.

In the Budget 2007, it was announced that a further £6 million will be made available to the household stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, taking the total available for householders to more than £18 million.

We aim to continue funding until June 2008, by which time some of our wider measures to promote microgeneration should be taking hold.

Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what incentives his Department provides to businesses seeking industrial premises for manufacturing; [131813]

(2) what assistance his Department makes available to regional development agencies and local authorities to provide adequate land and accommodation for small business start-ups in the manufacturing sector; [131814]

Margaret Hodge: This Department, along with five other Government Departments, provides funding to the regional development agencies through the single-pot funding mechanism. This allows the agencies to tailor their support according to regional needs as determined by their economic strategies. Some of this is spent on land and accommodation and some on small business start-ups.

In addition, European funding is available to the English regions, including local authorities, through the European regional development fund and this can be used to provide support to manufacturing.

This Department does not provide any funding to local authorities.

Natural Gas: Planning Permission

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to reduce the length of time taken to commission the construction of gas infrastructure projects following initial planning application prior to the implementation of the measures expected in the planning White Paper. [133474]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Preseli, Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) on 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1057W.

In addition, I should say that the time taken to commission gas infrastructure projects can be affected by a range of commercial or technical factors, or delays in the determination of planning applications. Commercial and technical issues are for developers themselves to resolve, although the DTI works to ensure that no unnecessary regulatory barriers to development delay the timely construction of facilities.

In order to avoid any unnecessary delays in determining planning applications, the DTI has held information seminars, in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive and British Geological Survey for local councillors and planning officers in relevant regions. They have covered the general context for such projects, as well as safety aspects and the factors that can influence the siting of developments.

Packaging

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with manufacturers of consumer goods including food in respect of the levels of packaging provided. [133516]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 949W.

Post Offices

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made with his Department's consultation on the future of the post office network. [133919]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department received over 2,500 responses to the public consultation which formally closed on 8 March. We are giving full consideration to the comments submitted and hope to be in a position to announce final decisions in May.

Radioactive Wastes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to consult on new radioactive waste arisings should the approval be given for new build of nuclear power plants. [132442]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department plans to launch a consultation in May on the future role of nuclear power. This will include consideration of a full range of issues around potential new build including the impact of new build on waste management and decommissioning.

The Government plan to launch a further consultation in the summer as part of the managing radioactive waste safely programme, which will consider all the issues relevant to implementation of geological disposal. This consultation will discuss the potential changes to the current waste inventory that would arise as a result of any new build.

Small Business Service

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps the Small Business Service has taken to place more emphasis on cross-governmental

working since the Government's cross-cutting review of Government services for small business in 2002. [117364]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 22 January 2007]*: The Small Business Service works across Government to support small businesses and encourage enterprise. Following the cross-cutting review of Government services for small business the Small Business Service:

established senior-level cross-Whitehall officials' groups dealing with a range of priority areas e.g.: business support simplification, regulation, frontline and on-line small businesses services;

identified Ministers to act as champions in every Government Department. So for instance, this month I have written to colleagues seeking their support in promoting November's enterprise week.

Telecommunications: Consumers

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what steps Ofcom has taken since March 2005 to prevent telecommunications companies transferring customers from one provider to another without their knowledge; [133839]

(2) how many complaints about telecommunications companies transferring customers from one provider to another without their knowledge were received by Ofcom in 2006; [133840]

(3) what steps the Government is taking to prevent telecommunications companies from transferring customers from one provider to another without their knowledge. [133842]

Margaret Hodge: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

A358

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of vehicles *(a)* the new A358 dualled northbound exit junction from the M5 will carry and *(b)* the existing A358 between the M5 and A303 carries each day (i) on average and (ii) at peak times of the year. [133206]

Dr. Ladyman: The information is as follows:

(a) The estimate of the average daily traffic flow in the design year (2032) used for assessment purposes in the current option study on the northbound link from the M5 to the A358 is 4,000 vehicles (low growth forecast) and 5,900 vehicles (high growth forecast).

(b) (i)(ii) The observed average daily two-way traffic flow on the A358 was 27,750 vehicles at Henlade and 22,050 at Capland in 2004 with average flows at peak times of the year of 28,300 and 23,000 vehicles respectively. This is the latest year for which full data is currently available.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the impact of building at the site of the new A358 dualled northbound exit junction from the M5 on *(a)* (i) the level of noise and (ii) the level of pollution experienced by local residents and *(b)* local house prices. [133207]

Dr. Ladyman: A stage 2 environmental assessment of the A303/A358 South Petherton to M5 Taunton improvement has been undertaken. This includes consideration of noise and air pollution impacts in the vicinity of the proposed northbound exit junction from the M5.

(a) (i) A number of properties at Blackbrook are predicted to experience an increase in noise of between 1 and 2 dB(A). The average increase in noise levels at Blackbrook is predicted to be approximately 1 dB(A) which is not considered to be significant as it cannot be noticed by the human ear.

(a) (ii) In the scheme opening year, assumed for assessment purposes to be 2017, all pollutant concentrations are predicted to be well below their respective air quality objectives and lower than the 2004 base year levels due to newer, less polluting vehicles on the roads and lower background pollution concentrations from road transport and energy generation.

(b) An assessment of the impact on house prices has not yet been undertaken.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the budget is for the new A358 dualled northbound exit junction from the M5, including the construction of a bridge; and what percentage of that budget has been allocated. [133208]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency is currently investigating options for the dualling of the A358 between the A303 and the M5 at Taunton. A budget has not been approved for the implementation of the scheme.

The A358/A303 is designated as a route of regional importance and is therefore subject to the regional funding allocation process.

Aircraft

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what average cabin floor space is allocated to *(a)* first, *(b)* business and *(c)* economy class aircraft passengers. [132132]

Gillian Merron: This is a matter for individual airlines. Generally, first class and business class cabin configurations provide passengers with a greater amount of seat space than economy class cabins. Scheduled economy seats may afford more legroom than charter flights. For economy/charter passengers additional seat space is usually only available at seat rows leading to emergency exits.

The Department has no information about averages across airlines. There are non-government websites which aim to collate this information for passengers.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Department. [132192]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport's expenditure on hospitality is conducted in accordance with the principals of "Government Accounting" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

Departments: Oral Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to his Department for oral answer have been transferred to other Departments since May 2005. [133807]

Gillian Merron: None.

Departments: Voluntary Organisations

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which voluntary organisations his Department consulted in 2006; and how many times they were consulted. [133675]

Gillian Merron: The Department consulted voluntary organisations routinely in 2006, both through numerous public consultations and through targeted direct approaches to specific or groups of organisations, including those in the voluntary sector. It is not possible to quantify the scale or number of those engagements across the breadth of the Department's remit.

Fares: Derbyshire

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from *(a)* Derbyshire county council and *(b)* Derbyshire bus operators on the use of the toolkit to determine the cost of concessionary fare schemes; and if he will make a statement. [133157]

Gillian Merron: The toolkit is part of guidance issued by the Department to travel concession authorities to help them calculate concessionary fare reimbursement. It was put together following consultation with the concessionary fares working group, which consists of representatives from local authorities and the bus industry. Derbyshire county council was represented on the group.

As of 23 April 2007, two bus operators have lodged appeals to the Secretary of State for Transport against the Derbyshire county-wide concessionary travel scheme for 2007-08, disputing the level of reimbursement offered by the authority. No representations have been received from Derbyshire county council. However, during the appeals process, the bus operators and the authority will be given opportunities to provide evidence and to respond to each other's submissions. Determinations of the appeals will be made in due course.

Invalid Vehicles

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish his recommendations following the review of class two and class three powered wheelchairs and powered scooters (invalid carriages) published in July 2005; and if he will make a statement. [132655]

Gillian Merron: This research, published by the Department in February 2006, looked at a range of issues, many of which are complex and require careful consideration. An announcement will be made later in the year on the way forward.

Motor Vehicles: Accidents

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in what proportion of the 5 per cent. of motor vehicle accidents resulting in injury where exceeding the speed limit was an identified factor *(a)* the involvement of stolen vehicles, *(b)* the involvement of the vehicle in the execution of a crime, *(c)* the involvement of emergency vehicles, *(d)* the driver being under the influence of drink or drugs and *(e)* other factors contributed to the accident. [133246]

Dr. Ladyman: The proportion of reported personal injury road accidents which had 'exceeding the speed limit' as a contributory factor, that also had *(a)* stolen vehicles, *(b)* vehicle in the course of crime, *(c)* emergency vehicles on a call, *(d)* influenced by alcohol or drugs or *(e)* other major factors as contributory factors is given in the following table.

Other contributory factors reported in personal injury road accidents which had 'exceeding the speed limit' as a contributory factor, GB 2005

Contributory factor	*Number*	*Percentage*
Stolen vehicle	233	3.2
Vehicle in course of crime	112	1.5
Emergency vehicle on a call	30	0.4
Impaired by alcohol	1,090	14.9
Impaired by drugs (illicit or medicinal)	131	1.8
Other factors		
Loss of control	2,361	32.3
Careless, reckless or in a hurry	2,261	30.9
Travelling too fast for conditions	1,616	22.1
Failed to look properly	1,561	21.3
Aggressive driving	1,191	16.3
Failed to judge other person's path or speed	1,151	15.7
Poor turn or manoeuvre	842	11.5
Slippery road (due to weather)	798	10.9
Any other factor[1]	1,394	19.1
Total number of accidents involving 'exceeding the speed limit'	7,314	100.0

[1] Contributory factors which independently accounted for less than 10 per cent. of accidents which had 'exceeding the speed limit' as a contributory factor.

It is important to note that the driver who had 'exceeding the speed limit' as a contributory factor in

an accident may not be the same driver who had 'stolen vehicle' (or one of the other contributory factors) as a contributory factor.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1381W, on motor vehicles: registration, what steps are being taken to ensure that foreign registered vehicles used in the UK for more than six months in any 12 months are being registered and licensed. [133775]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is running a pilot scheme to help educate those using foreign registered vehicles in this country about the rules surrounding their use. Those who break these rules risk direct enforcement action involving the wheel clamping and impounding of the vehicle. The pilot has been introduced on a limited basis and at this stage involves vehicles registered in a small number of European member states only. The results will be shared with the EU commission and other member states with the aim of introducing an EU-wide enforcement system.

Pedicabs

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the safety and roadworthiness of pedicabs; and if he will make a statement. [132725]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not made any specific assessment of the safety and roadworthiness of pedicabs. However, as road vehicles, pedicabs must comply with road traffic law including road vehicle lighting regulations, and with the Highway Code.

Bicycles and tricycles with a saddle height of not less than 635 millimetres and every cycle with four or more wheels must comply with the requirements of the Pedal Cycles (Construction and Use) regulations 1983.

Railway Track

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications under Section 17 of the Railways Act 1993 for a track access agreement have been made by regional new rail companies; and how many have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* accepted. [133160]

Mr. Tom Harris: Applications for track access agreements under section 17 of the Railways Act 1993 are dealt with by the Office of Rail Regulation. Two prospective new railway companies have made applications under section 17. Grand Central Railway Company Limited has made two applications; one was rejected and one was approved. Wrexham Shropshire and Marylebone Railway Company has made two applications: one was withdrawn and one is currently under consideration.

Railways: Bicycles

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the additional 1,000 railway carriages recently announced will be constructed to carry bicycles. [133169]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is too early to comment on the design of the additional rolling stock. Regrettably, there will always be constraints on the ability to accommodate non-folding bicycles at peak times, with the competing pressures on space from increasing passenger numbers.

Road Traffic Offences: Foreigners

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what account his Department has taken of the enforcement of civil traffic penalties against foreign registered vehicles in *(a)* plans for a national road user charging scheme and *(b)* the forthcoming road transport Bill; [132940]

(2) what account has been taken within his Department's road pricing feasibility studies of the enforcement of civil penalties against the keepers of foreign registered vehicles. [132944]

Dr. Ladyman: No decisions have been taken on a national road pricing scheme. The 2004 feasibility study considered enforcement issues but not specifically in relation to foreign registered vehicles. The need to provide an effective civil enforcement system is being addressed by the Department and those local authorities developing local road pricing schemes. The first priority though is to design schemes that are as easy as possible to use and understand—and which will ensure high levels of compliance by domestic and foreign vehicles. We will be publishing a draft Bill for consultation later in the spring and will welcome a debate on its provisions then.

Rolling Stock

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how the additional 1,000 new railway carriages recently announced will be allocated to operating companies; and if he will make a statement. [133170]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is too early to say where precisely the additional rolling stock will be used. The deployment of new rolling stock will be agreed with the industry following the publication of the high level output specification and the long term rail strategy this summer, in accordance with the periodic review timetable set out in the Office of Rail Regulation's advice to Ministers published in February 2007.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the extra 1,000 train carriages announced on 14 March 2007 are expected to be in use. [133300]

Mr. Tom Harris: I anticipate that orders for additional carriages will be placed between now and 2010, with a view to delivery between 2009 and 2013. The precise phasing of the orders will reflect where crowding relief is most urgently needed; Network Rail's timetable for any platform-lengthening or increase in

power supply which is required to accommodate longer trains; and the capacity of the suppliers of rolling stock.

West Coast Mainline: Rolling Stock

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the 1,000 new carriages that will come into use between 2009 and 2014 will be assigned to the West Coast main line. [133481]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is too early to say where precisely the additional rolling stock will be used. The deployment of the new rolling stock will be agreed with the industry following the publication of the high level output specification and the long term rail strategy this summer, in accordance with the periodic review timetable set out in the Office of Rail Regulation's advice to Ministers published in February 2007.

WALES

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent on hospitality by his Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133261]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office spent £14,279.62 on hospitality in 2006-07.

Olympic Games: Greater London

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what representations he has made within Government in the last 12 months about securing benefits to Wales from the 2012 Olympics. [133619]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues about matters affecting Wales including the 2012 Olympics.

Wales has an important contribution to make, both to the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Cultural Olympiad. Both will present superb opportunities to raise Wales' international profile as a visitor destination and to promote new economic development opportunities and trading partnerships at home and abroad.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the savings to his Department from detected benefit fraud were in each year since 1997, broken down by benefit. [116593]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available by individual benefit and comparable information is only available since 1999-2000. The available information is set out in the following tables. The figures in the tables represent the amount of fraud actually detected by the Department's officials, and reflect the monetary value of adjustment (MVA).

The MVA is the difference between the weekly amount of benefit that would have been paid or would have continued to be paid, and the benefit actually paid following the decision maker's decision on the information gathered. It includes both increases and decreases. The MVA scheme was introduced from 1 April 1999.

Instrument of payment fraud

Due to the increase in the number of customers who are paid by direct payment (around 98 per cent. of our customers are now paid in this way, compared to around 34 per cent. in 1999), there has been a very large reduction in the amount of instrument of payment fraud, as shown in the following table:

	Instrument of Payment MVA (£)
1999-2000	20,470,863
2000-01	15,302,840
2001-02	9,322,117
2002-03	9,217,555
2003-04	7,916,299
2004-05	4,474,984
2005-06	2,824,939

General matching service

DWP can data match information from across a number of sources, to check:

Whether customers continue to be entitled for benefit; or

That customers' benefit is being paid correctly.

Data matching enables the Department to find inconsistencies in information and therefore identify where people are committing fraud (in addition to identifying customer and official error). For example, if someone was paying national insurance contributions on earned income at a time when their benefit claim showed that they had no earnings, clearly something is wrong.

The MVA in respect of the Department's general matching service is as follows, and shows the increased success of various data matching exercises in detecting fraud:

	General Matching Service MVA (£)
1999-2000	951,885
2000-01	1,034,865
2001-02	1,340,080
2002-03	1,672,893
2003-04	1,577,042
2004-05	1,056,966
2005-06	1,324,906

Other benefit fraud

Benefit fraud MVA not including MVA from instrument of payment fraud and general matching service fraud is as shown in the following table.

	Benefit fraud MVA (£)
1999-2000	6,561,497
2000-01	5,771,922
2001-02	5,720,786
2002-03	5,167,365
2003-04	5,095,564
2004-05	5,190,263
2005-06	5,104,595

Big Brother Project

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the Department's projected allocation to the Big Brother project is for the next five years; [129999]

(2) how much the Department has spent on the Big Brother project for single unemployed parents since the project's inception. [130000]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested is not available centrally as the Department does not make allocations to that level of detail and can therefore be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Children: Maintenance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets the Government have in relation to parents with care in receipt of benefits receiving no maintenance; and if he will make a statement. [122891]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the chief executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 24 April 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets the Government has in relation to parents with care in receipt of benefits receiving no maintenance; and if he will make a statement. [122891]

Parents with care in receipt of benefit represent a large proportion of the Agency's caseload. As such, all the Agency's targets relate to them. However, the Agency has two targets that specifically cover parents with care in receipt of benefits:

The DWP Public Service Agreement (PSA) Target "to increase the proportion of parents with care on income support or income-based Jobseeker's allowance who receive maintenance for their children to 65% in march 2008".

The maintenance outcome target as published in the Child Support Agency Business Plan 2006/07—"By March 2007, in 65 per cent. of cases across both the new and old schemes in which a liability to pay maintenance exists, the non-resident parent has either made a payment via the collection service or a Maintenance Direct arrangement is in place. In addition, further ensuring that at least this level of performance is achieved for those new scheme cases in which the parent with care is on Income Support of income-based Jobseeker's Allowance".

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Community Care Grants

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many applications for community care grants have taken *(a)* under one week, *(b)* between one and two weeks, *(c)* between two and three weeks, *(d)* between four and five weeks and *(e)* over five weeks to process since January 2006; [125586]

(2) how many applications for budgeting loans have taken *(a)* under one week, *(b)* between one and two weeks, *(c)* between two and three weeks, *(d)* between four and five weeks and *(e)* over five weeks to process since January 2006. [125685]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 24 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many applications for Community Care Grants and Budgeting Loans have taken *(a)* under one week, *(b)* between one and two weeks, *(c)* between two and three weeks, *(d)* between four and five weeks, and *(e)* over five weeks to process since January 2006. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The clearance time for an individual application is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received to the date the decision is taken (on whether to make a Community Care Grant award or a Budgeting Loan offer), plus, if a Budgeting Loan offer is made, the number of whole working days between receiving the applicant's reply to the offer and the recording of that reply.

The information requested is in the table.

Number of applications cleared from January 2006 to January 2007 inclusive in Great Britain

Working days to clear	Community care grants	Budgeting loans
Less than 5	184,200	1,449,300
5 to 10 inclusive	257,200	311,300
11 to 15 inclusive	106,500	47,600
16 to 20 inclusive	49,200	10,000
21 to 25 inclusive	20,500	2,400
More than 25	21,400	2,900

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

I hope this is helpful.

Departments: Sick Leave

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many working days were lost *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in agencies reporting to his Department due to sickness and injury in 2006. [126081]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is contained in the following table. It was obtained from the computer systems managers use to record absences.

Separate information on sickness absence and absences recorded as injury for November and December, is temporarily unavailable. This is due to a change in the Department's computer system.

Absences relating to injury are recorded against a category of 'Injury and Poisoning'. This includes, for

example, the toxic effects of alcohol or drugs, any surgical procedures, and road traffic accidents. It is not possible separately to identify cases relating to injuries.

The Appeals Service transferred out of the DWP on 31 March 2006 and their absence information is included until this date.

	Working days lost	
Business	*Sickness*	*Injury/poisoning*
Jobcentre Plus	589,561	75,322
Pension Service	93,387	18,237
Child Support Agency	104,758	17,611
Corporate Centre	73,633	13,234
Disability and Carers Service	47,741	9,846
Appeals Service	1,627	173
DWP overall	910,707	134,423

Disability and Carers Service: Pay

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what bonus system is in place for Disability and Carers Service staff. [127534]

Mrs. McGuire: Information concerning Disability and Carers' Service staff is a matter for their Chief Executive, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Vivien Hopkins, dated 24 April 2007:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what bonus system is in place for Disability and Carers Service staff.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service. In his absence, I am replying.

DWP operates an individual performance bonus scheme for employees in all of its Businesses including the Disability and Carers Service. Non-consolidated bonus payments are awarded to employees on the basis of their individual performance, which is assessed as part of the Departmental Performance and Development system. Individual performance bonuses are paid after the completion of the performance year.

In addition to this, DWP have also paid team bonuses to selected units within the Department. No team bonus schemes have run since 2004/2005.

Teams and individuals may also be entitled to modest Special Bonus payments in recognition of particular pieces of exceptional work. These payments can be made at any time at the discretion of the local manager either as cash amounts or in the form of a high street voucher.

I trust this is helpful.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the forms issued by his Department for disability living allowance claims were last amended; and what the reasons were for these amendments. [127445]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the chief executive of the disability and carers service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran, dated 24 April 2007:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when the forms issued by his Department for disability living allowance claims were last amended; and what the reasons were for these amendments.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service. The Disability Living Allowance claim forms, DLA1 Child, DLA1A Child, DLA434 Child, DLA434 Adult, DLA300, were last amended in February 2007. They were available with effect from 19 February 2007.

The amendments were made as part of the ongoing maintenance of claim forms. The changes involved were relatively minor and included asking for the nationality of the parent/guardian; updating the Inland Revenue website address; leaflet titles and the method of payment wording; adding the opening times for "Contact a Family"; a statement to make it clear that GPs are not part of the decision making process; and improving the information to customers claiming under special rules and for customers in hospital or other accommodation. This list is not exhaustive.

Additionally the DLA1 Adult and the DLA1A Adult claim forms were last amended in December 2005 when the civil partnership came into force. There was a minor update to these forms in June 2006 to clarify the information for customers who are claiming under the special rules.

The DLA Adult claim forms have been given a new look and will be introduced at the end of April 2007. These new look claim forms have received a Crystal Mark.

I hope this is helpful.

Helplines

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* average speed of response to calls and *(b)* proportion of failed calls was for each helpline operated by or on behalf of his Department in each year since 1997. [116584]

Mrs. McGuire: The information that is available is shown in the table. Information is not available for any DWP helpline prior to 2000-01.

Certain helplines do not collate or have information available on average speed of answering calls. The data provided for these helplines (x per cent. of calls answered in y seconds) is the closest comparable indicator.

Failed calls are those that are not presented to the contact centre due to technical reasons, such as system failures.

DWP helpline	*Year*	*Average speed of answer in seconds*	*Proportion of failed calls (percentage)*
CSA[1]	2002-03	56	12
	2003-04	135	13
	2004-05	100	4
	2005-06	59	2
	2006-07[2]	27	2
DCS helpline[3]	2000-01	23 per cent. in 30 seconds	—
	2001-02	18 per cent. in 30 seconds	—
	2002-03	17 per cent. in 30 seconds	—

DWP helpline	Year	Average speed of answer in seconds	Proportion of failed calls (percentage)
	2003-04	26 per cent. in 30 seconds	—
	2004-05	37 per cent. in 30 seconds	—
	2005-06	82	0.4
	2006-07[2]	85	0.5
Benefit Inquiry Line[3]	2000-01	93 per cent. in 60 seconds	—
	2001-02	88 per cent. in 60 seconds	—
	2002-03	59 per cent. in 30 seconds	—
	2003-04	48 per cent. in 30 seconds	—
	2004-05	31 per cent. in 30 seconds	—
	2005-06	137	—
	2006-07[2]	34	0.4
Jobcentre Plus Direct—First Contact[4]	2004-05	66 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
	2005-06	64 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
	2006-07[2]	76 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
Jobcentre Plus Direct—Jobseeker Direct[4]	2004-05	51 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
	2005-06	74 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
	2006-07[2]	84 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
Jobcentre Plus Direct—Employer Direct[4]	2003-04	80 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
	2004-05	82 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
	2005-06	85 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
	2006-07[2]	90 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
Jobcentre Plus Direct—NiNO Allocations[4]	2005-06	80 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
	2006-07[2]	87 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
Jobcentre Plus Direct-National Benefit Fraud Hotline[4]	2004-05	71 per cent. in 3 seconds	—
	2005-06	78 per cent. in 3 seconds	—
	2006-07[2]	96 per cent. in 20 seconds	—
Pension Centres[5]	2004-05	—	1.1
	2005-06	81 per cent. in 30 seconds	0.7

DWP helpline	Year	Average speed of answer in seconds	Proportion of failed calls (percentage)
	2006-07[2]	84 per cent. in 30 seconds	0.7
Future Pension Centre[5]	2004-05	—	0.4
	2005-06	49 per cent. in 30 seconds	0.1
	2006-07[2]	55 per cent. in 30 seconds	0
International Pension Centre[5]	2004-05	—	0.1
	2005-06	66 per cent. in 30 seconds	0
	2006-07[2]	70 per cent. in 30 seconds	0
Pension Credit Application Line[5]	2003-04[6]	94 per cent. in 30 seconds	—
	2004-05	87 per cent. in 30 seconds	2.3
	2005-06	78 per cent. in 30 seconds	1.1
	2006-07[2]	90 per cent. in 30 seconds	0.6
Pensions Guide Orderline[5]	2005-06	91 per cent. in 30 seconds	0
	2006-07[2]	88 per cent. in 30 seconds	0
Pensions Information Orderline[5]	2004-05	—	4.6
	2005-06	85 per cent. in 30 seconds	2.5
	2006-07[2]	89 per cent. in 30 seconds	1
Pensions Direct[5]	2004-05	—	0
	2005-06	72 per cent. in 30 seconds	0.6
	2006-07[2]	83 per cent. in 30 seconds	0
Reinstatement of Deficiency Notice Project[5,7]	2004-05	—	0
	2005-06	82 per cent. in 30 seconds	0
	2006-07[2]	94 per cent. in 30 seconds	0.8
Retirement Pension Tele Claims[5]	2004-05	—	0
	2005-06	82 per cent. in 30 seconds	1
	2006-07[2]	80 per cent. in 30 seconds	1
Winter Fuel[5]	2004-05	—	4.5
	2005-06	71 per cent. in 30 seconds	0.1

DWP helpline[5]	Year	Average speed of answer in seconds	Proportion of failed calls (percentage)
	2006-07[2]	86 per cent. in 30 seconds	0

[1] CSA does not hold sufficiently robust information prior to 2002.
[2] Figures for April 2006 to December 2006.
[3] DCS Helpline and Benefit Inquiry Line does not hold information on failed calls prior to 2005.
[4] Jobcentre Plus Direct do not collate information centrally on failed calls due to technical reasons. First Contact Service went live in June 2004. Nino Allocations Service went live in October 2005. Prior to 2004-05 the telephony systems were not advanced enough to provide service level data.
[5] The Pension Service was launched in April 2002 and the majority of helplines were fully operational by August 2003. Robust data on the percentage of calls answered within 30 seconds is available for most helplines from September 2005.
[6] Data for period September 2003 to March 2004, as PCAL did not become fully operational until September 2003.
[7] Helpline started taking calls from November 2004.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his assessment is of the principal causes of the trend in the real value of total public spending on incapacity benefits since 1995-96; and if he will make a statement. [122621]

Mrs. McGuire: Real-terms expenditure on working age incapacity benefits has fallen by around 10 per cent. since 1995-96.

A key reason for the decline in expenditure over this period is the continued reduction (since April 1995) in the number of claimants who receive protected and higher amounts of contributory invalidity benefit, the predecessor to incapacity benefit. This is an ongoing and gradual process, occurring as people have flowed off the benefit, for example through retirement.

In 1995-96, 85 per cent. of expenditure on incapacity benefits was on the protected ex-invalidity benefit. This proportion had fallen to around 50 per cent. in 2001-02 and was around a third in 2005-06.

IT Projects

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on *(a)* information technology projects generally and *(b)* web-facing projects in each year since 2001, broken down by (i) expenditure on consultants and (ii) other costs. [102135]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions undertakes a large number of projects which deliver business change and policy initiatives. IT changes are an enabling component of many projects. The number of projects in train at any one time will vary and the duration of the project lifecycle is often more than one calendar year.

The following table provides information by financial year of expenditure on IT projects and web-facing projects since 2001 and includes only those projects where the IT element is such that non-delivery of the IT would significantly damage the project's ability to deliver its intended results.

The information required is not readily available for some projects that were implemented a number of years ago or is not available in the format required. This may be the total spend and/or the spending on consultants. The cost of obtaining such information would not be reasonable.

£ million

	IT projects		Web-facing projects	
	Spending	Consultants spending	Spending	Consultants spending
2001-02	225.38	23.41	2.60	0.00
2002-03	455.41	84.96	3.50	0.00
2003-04	604.52	156.06	8.92	0.19
2004-05	422.84	123.06	20.08	1.45
2005-06	433.26	127.16	15.18	3.70

Note:
The "spending" represents the investment costs of the project, the "consultants spending" represents the amount of investment spending on consultants.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average time Jobcentre Plus took to process applications for *(a)* community care grants and *(b)* budgeting loans in the last 12 months. [125582]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 24 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking about the average time that Jobcentre Plus took to process applications for Community Care Grants and Budgeting Loans, in the last 12 months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The time it takes to process both Community Care Grant and Budgeting Loan applications, is measured by counting the average length of time taken to clear all claims processed within a set period (usually monthly). The measure is referred to as the Average Actual Clearance Time.

The clearance time for an individual application is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received to the date the decision is taken (on whether to make a Community Care Grant award or a Budgeting Loan offer), plus, if a Budgeting Loan offer is made, the number of whole working days between receiving the applicant's reply to the offer and the recording of that reply. The minimum clearance time recorded for an individual Community Care Grant or Budgeting Loan application is one day, even if the application is cleared immediately.

The expected service level for Community Care Grants is nine days and for Budgeting Loans it is six days.

The information requested is in the tables.

National monthly community care grant average actual clearance times in days

	Days
2006	
February	7.5
March	7.5
April	9.0
May	10.4
June	9.7
July	8.9

National monthly community care grant average actual clearance times in days

	Days
August	9.5
September	10.4
October	10.0
November	8.9
December	9.0
January	9.1

National monthly budgeting loan average actual clearance times in days

	Days
2006	
February	2.4
March	2.4
April	2.7
May	3.4
June	3.7
July	3.3
August	3.6
September	3.5
October	3.3
November	3.5
December	3.7
January	3.2

Note:
The Average Actual Clearance Time is obtained by dividing the total number of working days from all applications by the number of applications

Source:
The Jobcentre Plus MI Portal

I hope this is helpful.

Jobseekers Allowance: Lone Parents

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost would be of implementing the jobseeker's allowance regime for all lone parents whose youngest child is aged 12 and over. [129576]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The total estimated cost of implementing a jobseeker's allowance (JSA) regime for lone parents with children aged 12 and over is between £6 million and £10 million. The final figure would be dependent on whether lone parents leave JSA at the same speed as current female JSA claimants, current income support lone parent claimants, or somewhere in between.

New Deal for Long Term Unemployed

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people left the New Deal 25 plus for employment in each month since 1998. [124441]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 1 March 2007]:* The available information is in the following table.

New Deal 25 plus

	Number of leavers to employment
2001	
April	140
May	460
June	1,010

New Deal 25 plus

	Number of leavers to employment
July	990
August	1,490
September	1,710
October	1,780
November	2,220
December	970
2002	
January	1,690
February	2,000
March	2,520
April	2,140
May	2,680
June	1,990
July	2,180
August	2,720
September	2,420
October	2,430
November	2,720
December	1,340
2003	
January	2,510
February	2,340
March	2,450
April	2,340
May	2,930
June	2,570
July	2,420
August	2,960
September	2,780
October	3,240
November	2,300
December	1,460
2004	
January	2,600
February	2,600
March	2,590
April	2,930
May	2,600
June	2,500
July	3,080
August	2,370
September	2,720
October	3,500
November	2,560
December	1,840
2005	
January	2,370
February	2,400
March	2,390
April	2,790
May	2,170
June	2,100
July	2,570
August	1,930
September	2,660
October	2,010

New Deal 25 plus

	Number of leavers to employment
November	1,980
December	1,500
2006	
January	1,610
February	1,740
March	2,360
April	1,540
May	1,670
June	2,090
July	1,660
August	1,650

Notes:
1. Data on leavers are only available from April 2001.
2. Latest information is to August 2006.
3. Figures are rounded to nearest 10.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

New Deal for Young People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people returned to the new deal for young people (NDYP) having completed 13 weeks employment and having previously left the NDYP in each quarter since 1998. [125061]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 2 March 2007]:* The information is in the following table.

New deal for young people

Quarter	*People starting new deal for young people* *Number*	*Of which: people who had previously left new deal for young people to a sustained job* *Number*	*Percentage*
January to March 1998	10,430	—	0
April to June 1998	53,270	10	0
July to September 1998	43,420	90	0
October to December 1998	29,880	160	1
January to March 1999	34,980	510	1
April to June 1999	31,100	1,130	4
July to September 1999	33,440	2,220	7
October to December 1999	28,620	2,800	10
January to March 2000	35,290	4,140	12
April to June 2000	29,320	4,380	15
July to September 2000	27,900	4,660	17
October to December 2000	22,910	3,910	17
January to March 2001	31,310	4,960	16

New deal for young people

Quarter	*People starting new deal for young people* *Number*	*Of which: people who had previously left new deal for young people to a sustained job* *Number*	*Percentage*
April to June 2001	27,090	5,190	19
July to September 2001	27,290	5,460	20
October to December 2001	21,540	4,280	20
January to March 2002	29,990	5,680	19
April to June 2002	28,640	5,850	20
July to September 2002	28,720	5,750	20
October to December 2002	24,010	4,730	20
January to March 2003	33,370	5,970	18
April to June 2003	31,360	6,310	20
July to September 2003	33,440	6,520	19
October to December 2003	25,960	4,870	19
January to March 2004	33,630	5,830	17
April to June 2004	29,660	5,240	18
July to September 2004	29,440	5,230	18
October to December 2004	25,930	4,340	17
January to March 2005	30,540	4,730	15
April to June 2005	32,530	5,320	16
July to September 2005	39,590	6,390	16
October to December 2005	33,370	5,260	16
January to March 2006	47,380	6,540	14
April to June 2006	45,690	6,680	15
July to September 2006	48,290	6,880	14

Notes:
1. Latest full quarter data is to September 2006.
2. Data record the quarter in which people returned to new deal for young people having previously left the programme to sustained employment.
3. Sustained employment under new deal for young people is defined as not returning to claim jobseeker's allowance for at least 13 weeks.
4. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants there were on the New Deal for Disabled People in each month since January 1998; how many participants had participated on at least one previous occasion; and how many gained employment as a result of their participation in the New Deal for Disabled People. [125801]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 6 March 2007]*: The new deal for disabled people programme started in July 2001. Since then 21,000 people have participated on the programme on more than one occasion and 124,300 people have gained a job.

The number of participants on new deal for disabled people in each month since the start of the programme is in the table.

New deal for disabled people

	Participants
July 2001	1,410
August 2001	2,780
September 2001	3,720
October 2001	4,760
November 2001	6,510
December 2001	7,360
January 2002	8,750
February 2002	10,630
March 2002	13,010
April 2002	15,210
May 2002	18,030
June 2002	19,820
July 2002	22,030
August 2002	24,490
September 2002	26,770
October 2002	29,050
November 2002	31,770
December 2002	32,710
January 2003	34,730
February 2003	37,120
March 2003	39,550
April 2003	41,200
May 2003	43,040
June 2003	45,170
July 2003	47,320
August 2003	49,420
September 2003	51,740
October 2003	54,040
November 2003	55,560
December 2003	56,150
January 2004	57,960
February 2004	60,110
March 2004	62,540
April 2004	65,420
May 2004	68,670
June 2004	71,590
July 2004	75,790
August 2004	78,750
September 2004	82,040
October 2004	85,800
November 2004	88,540
December 2004	89,670
January 2005	92,160
February 2005	95,360
March 2005	98,130
April 2005	101,630
May 2005	104,110
June 2005	106,250
July 2005	109,380
August 2005	112,370
September 2005	115,910
October 2005	119,100
November 2005	122,210
December 2005	123,500
January 2006	126,660
February 2006	130,490
March 2006	134,580
April 2006	137,640
May 2006	140,720
June 2006	144,110
July 2006	147,550
August 2006	151,530

Notes:
1. Latest data are to August 2006.
2. Figures are rounded to nearest 10.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls to the benefit theft hotline were *(a)* answered and *(b)* unanswered in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [124707]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Month	*Calls answered*	*Calls abandoned*[1]
2006		
February	21,351	731
March	20,887	731
April	12,737	179
May	15,387	203
June	20,327	328
July	16,819	199
August	20,513	241
September	14,295	212
October	15,784	1,046
November	22,653	635
December	11,118	301
2007		
January	19,574	560

[1] Calls abandoned include calls whereby the customer hangs up prior to the call being answered by an NBFH agent.

Note:
Data include external partners Broad Systems performance as they provide NBFH services during out of hours, they are not part of Jobcentre Plus.

Source:
National Benefit Fraud Hotline

Tattooing: Plastic Surgery

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on public funding for private companies and charities to offer claimants tattoo removal. [128709]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No representations have been received on public funding for private companies and charities to offer claimants tattoo removal.

Welfare State

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the conclusions of the Freud report on the welfare systems in *(a)* Australia, *(b)* New Zealand, *(c)* the US and *(d)* the rest of the world. [128711]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No representations have been received on David Freud's conclusions about the welfare systems of these countries or the rest of the world. The Government will be responding to David Freud's review in the summer, and will invite people to make representations as part of that process.

Welfare-to-work Strategy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will *(a)* put in place a mechanism for independent scrutiny of the Government's long-term review of its welfare to work strategy; and *(b)* if he will ensure that provision is made for third parties to contribute to the review. [116898]

Mr. Jim Murphy: David Freud's report, "Reducing dependency, increasing opportunity: options for the future of welfare to work", was published on 5 March. The Government welcome the report and will respond to its recommendations in due course. As part of this process, we will set out how third parties can make representations.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 25 April 2007

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Employment Schemes

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support his Department plans to give to the National Care Farming Initiative. [132569]

Barry Gardiner: Natural England, and its predecessor bodies, have provided financial support to the National Care Farming Initiative in the past and further support will continue in terms of information and advice. Future funding will be considered when budgets are clarified in the middle of May.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms in each district authority in Cumbria are eligible for single payment scheme payments; how many received SPS payments in the 2006-07 financial year; and what percentage of farmers this represents in each case. [132101]

Barry Gardiner: Detailed analysis by constituency, area or category of the payments made under the single payment scheme is not available.

As of 18 April 2007, a total of 98,395 of farmers in England have received either a full or partial payment under the 2006 single payment scheme year, and 10,605 farmers, equating to 9.7 per cent. of the estimated total claimant population, have not received any payment. The total cash value of all outstanding payments is £415.16 million. The Rural Payment Agency's target is to pay 96.14 per cent. of the total value of the fund by 30 June 2007.

There are 30 2005 claims that are outstanding and have not received full payment, totalling £261,054.88.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that single farm payments are made in their entirety and on time. [132276]

Barry Gardiner: The difficulties experienced in completing payments under the 2005 single payment scheme have inevitably impacted on the payment timetable for the 2006 scheme year. The Rural Payments Agency has made it clear that the target of paying 96.14 per cent. of claims by value by 30 June 2007 is challenging.

RPA is developing a comprehensive set of actions to recover from the problems of SPS 2005 and has already made several improvements to the way in which it operates. These changes will take into account the recommendations of the EFRA Select Committee, National Audit Office and other inquiries.

As of 18 April 2007, RPA had paid £1.12 billion in full or partial SPS 2006 payments to 98,395 claimants. The Department and RPA continue to work closely to ensure that the remaining claims and top-up payments where a partial payment has been made, are paid as soon as possible.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of farmers in England are awaiting single payment scheme payments from financial year 2006-07; how many farms this represents; what the total cash value is of these outstanding payments; and when these payments are expected to be made. [132278]

Barry Gardiner: As of 18 April 2007, a total of 98,395 of farmers in England have received either a full or partial payment under the 2006 single payment scheme year, and 10,605 farmers, equating to 9.7 per cent. of the estimated total claimant population, have not received any payment. The total cash value of all outstanding payments is £415.16 million. The Rural Payments Agency target is to pay 96.14 per cent. of the total value of the fund by 30 June 2007.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers received Single Farm Payments of more than *(a)* £40,000 and *(b)* £50,000 in 2006. [132295]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* 1,429 farmers received single payment scheme payments of more than £40,000 and less than £50,000 in 2006.

2,434 farmers received SPS payments of more than £50,000 in 2006.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms are eligible for single farm payments; how many single farm payments were made in 2006; and what the average value was of those payments. [132296]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* The 119,374 claimants who received entitlements in 2005 are therefore eligible to claim under the single payment scheme (SPS): 116,914 payments were made in 2006 with an average value of £13,165.98.

Air Pollution: Contracts

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which companies providing carbon offsetting arrangements his officials examined in making a choice for his Department's offsetting arrangements. [119406]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA ran a tendering process for the Government carbon offsetting fund contract and received 16 expressions of interest from:

AEA Technology plc

Agrinergy Ltd

Arup Project Management
Carbon Aided Ltd
Carbon Ventures Ltd
Carbonium
Climate Focus BV
Climate Wedge Ltd
CO2e Ltd
Ecofys UK Ltd
EcoSecurities Ltd
EEA Fund Management Ltd
Hyder Consulting (UK) Ltd
Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM)
South Pole Carbon Asset Management Ltd
The Carbon Neutral Company

EEA Fund Management was selected as the winning bidder after delivering the highest score following all rounds of the evaluation process.

Avian Influenza

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs from which *(a)* UK county and *(b)* other countries the turkey poults supplied to the Bernard Matthews' plant at Holton, Suffolk originated; and what the health status of each supplying plant was with regard to the H5N1 virus. [133891]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 159,000 day-old turkey poults came from Bernard Matthews' own hatchery in Norfolk, between 30 November and 14 December 2006. The eggs had been supplied by Bernard Matthews' breeding flocks in Norfolk and Suffolk. We have no evidence of H5N1 infection at these sites.

Common Agricultural Policy: Food

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the effect of the Common Agricultural Policy on the amount spent by an average family in the UK on food in one year. [132810]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* We can calculate an estimate of the UK consumer cost of the Common Agricultural Policy by comparing the difference between UK and world prices for agricultural products and applying that difference to the volume of UK consumption. On that basis the cost of higher spending on food to a notional family of four in 2004 was approximately £260. Our provisional estimate for 2005 is approximately £220.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Department. [132202]

Barry Gardiner: The Department has clear guidance on hospitality in both its finance manual and staff handbook. Both these guides follow the principles laid down in Government accounting and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety.

The two key principles operated by the Department are: that hospitality may be provided only if it is in the public interest and necessary for the conduct of business; and the amount spend shall be appropriate for the occasion and not such to attract adverse comment.

Directors General are responsible for monitoring expenditure on hospitality and are required to ensure that any such expenditure meets the above principles

Departments: Paper

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure his Department's economical use of paper. [128008]

Barry Gardiner: From information held centrally, the amount of printing paper purchased between April 2005 and March 2006 was 829 tonnes, and for copier paper 235.8 tonnes. The Department is taking the following steps to ensure its use of paper is economical:

a move away from paper-based records management towards electronic records thereby reducing the volume of paper-based information held locally. In time, this will reduce the volume of paper stored in archives;

DEFRA has revised recently its procedures for records management so that more of DEFRA's records can be created captured and stored electronically rather than printing to paper;

double sided printing as standard if documents need to be printed at all;

printer rationalisation and reduction as part of DEFRA's IT and facilities management strategies;

online communications or events for its external communications;

expanding the scope of e-publishing for key publications;

moving towards binless offices as part of DEFRA's facilities management strategy.

All Departments are required to meet cross-Government sustainable operations targets, launched last year. The targets for reducing their waste arisings are 5 per cent. and 25 per cent. by 2010 and 2020 respectively, relative to 2004-05 levels; and for increasing their recycling figures to 40 per cent. and 75 per cent. of their waste arisings by 2010 and 2020, respectively.

Departments: Surveys

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department undertakes employee exit surveys. [130581]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA sends out an exit questionnaire to each employee leaving the Department and also offers exit interviews to staff.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what reduction in UK carbon emissions is predicted to result from *(a)* phase 1 and *(b)* phase 2 of the EU emissions trading scheme, expressed (i) in tonnes and (ii) as a percentage of the total at the start of the scheme; [131411]

(2) what percentage reduction in UK carbon emissions has resulted to date from participation in the EU emissions trading scheme; [131412]

(3) whether UK carbon emission reductions resulting from the EU Emissions Trading Scheme are being independently reviewed and audited; [131413]

(4) what reduction in UK carbon emissions was projected to result from phase One of the EU emissions trading scheme at its outset; and what reductions have been quantified to date. [131414]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The approved UK national allocation plan (NAP) for phase I (2005-07) of the EU emissions trading scheme is set to deliver carbon dioxide emissions savings of around 65 million tonnes (roughly 8 per cent.) below the projected business as usual emissions of the installations covered by the scheme during phase I. The rationale behind emission trading is to ensure that the emission reductions take place where the cost of the reduction is lowest thus lowering the overall costs of tackling climate change. The emissions reductions referred to above may not therefore all take place in the UK.

Comparing 2003 and 2005 emissions in the UK from installations in the EU ETS shows a reduction of around 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($MtCO_2$) which equates to 4 per cent. However, a number of new installations commenced operation and entered the scheme in 2004 and 2005, emitting a total of around five $MtCO_2$ in 2005. Therefore, the net total reduction in emissions from UK installations (incumbent and new) in the EU ETS was approximately five $MtCO_2$ between 2003 and 2005.

The UK NAP for phase II (2008-12) is set to deliver an annual reduction of 29.3 million tonnes of CO_2 against projected business as usual emissions for 2010. The allocation level has been set at 13 per cent. below emissions from these installations in 2005.

Farmers: Manpower

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers there are in *(a)* England, *(b)* Northern Ireland, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Wales. [132159]

Barry Gardiner: The number of registered holdings in England at June 2006 was 200,381. Figures for the other UK countries fall under the jurisdiction of the devolved authorities.

Source:

June Agricultural Survey

Inland Waterways: Rochdale

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 763W, on inland waterways: repairs and maintenance, how much the Trub Farm, Rochdale canal, received in alternative money; and what the source of funding was. [133306]

Barry Gardiner: Works to install a bridge and associated road at Trub Farm on the Rochdale Canal were carried out as part of British Waterways' 2006-07 works programme at a cost of £586,000. The alternative source of funding related to British Waterways made provision for the cost of the work in its 2005-06 accounts as it was contractually committed to this work. The project was therefore removed from its 2006-07 cost schedule and was unaffected by the 2006-07 cuts.

Milk: Prices

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Competition Commission on the share of the retail price of milk that is passed on to farmers by supermarkets. [131978]

Barry Gardiner: The Competition Commission announced in January that it intended to look further at the impact of supermarket buyer power on dairy farmers during the next stage of its inquiry into the groceries market. DEFRA has had no recent discussions with the CC on this matter. We have, however, provided it with information on the dairy sector and have made clear our willingness to meet, should they wish to do so.

Peat Bogs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what studies his Department has undertaken into the degrading of peat bogs by the releasing of carbon in the form of dissolved organic carbon. [132318]

Barry Gardiner: The degradation of peat bogs can lead to a loss of soil carbon in various forms, including as dissolved organic carbon. Research into peat bog degradation and restoration in the UK has been, and is currently being, funded by a range of organisations such as water companies, conservation groups and the Government. DEFRA has recently undertaken reviews of the available literature on both the degradation of organic soils (including peat bogs) and management options for restoring degraded bogs.

We are now developing a programme of research on soil carbon to improve our understanding of the main mechanisms by which carbon is lost, the impacts of land use and land management, and practical methods for mitigating losses. This will form part of the forthcoming soil strategy for England.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken *(a)* to preserve and *(b)* to reactivate drained peat bog land as carbon sinks; what his policy is on the long-term role of peat bogs as carbon sinks in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [132319]

Barry Gardiner: The need to preserve peat bogs for their biodiversity value, and as stores of carbon, is being addressed on a range of fronts.

Agri-environment schemes provide for good management of around 230,000 hectares of peat bogs. A progress review of environmental stewardship (ES)

is due to begin shortly. Increasing the contribution of ES to climate change mitigation, including the role of peat restoration, will be examined as part of this.

We are also working towards our current public service agreement target to ensure that 95 per cent. of the area in England designated as sites of special scientific interest is in favourable or recovering condition by 2010. A considerable proportion of peat bogs are designated as SSSIs and currently around two thirds of this area meets the target. Improving the condition of the remainder is a priority.

The England biodiversity strategy also contributes towards the protection of peat bogs, as does the UK air quality strategy which sets objectives to protect vegetation and ecosystems. The forthcoming soil strategy for England will draw together all these strands and DEFRA will consider, as part of this strategy, what further activity is required to protect existing carbon stocks.

Our long-term policy is to promote management which (i) minimises further losses of carbon from peat soils, and (ii) allows peat bogs to act as a carbon sink. The potential for significantly off-setting carbon emissions may be somewhat limited because of the time it takes for peat to form.

There are significant areas of peat bog in Scotland (which has over 70 per cent. of the UK peat resource), Wales and Northern Ireland. The devolved Administrations have policy responsibility in their territories, and DEFRA will continue to work closely with them.

Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the effect on the UK's carbon dioxide emissions if the existing nuclear generating fleet was replaced by *(a)* coal-powered fire stations and *(b)* gas-fired power stations. [132111]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The full lifecycle release of carbon dioxide emissions from nuclear power is similar to wind power, and much less than fossil fuel plant such as coal and gas. The calculation of avoided carbon dioxide emissions if the existing nuclear generating fleet were replaced by *(a)* coal-powered fire stations is an increase of 44 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year and *(b)* gas-powered fire stations is an increase of 22 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

Rural Development Programme

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether non-agricultural or environmental rural businesses will be able to access funding from the rural development programme for England; [132102]

(2) how he expects the rural development programme for England *(a)* to help small rural and agricultural businesses to be more competitive and *(b)* to enhance employment and business opportunities in rural areas; [132103]

(3) how much new money English rural and agricultural businesses will be able to access through the rural development programme for England; [132104]

(4) how small farming, agricultural and rural businesses will be able to access the rural development programme for England; and from what date funding will be available; [132107]

(5) what assistance will be offered to small farming, agricultural and rural businesses to enable them to access the rural development programme for England. [132108]

Barry Gardiner: Rural businesses across all sectors will be able to access funding under Axes 1, 3 and 4 of the rural development programme for England. These provide support for measures to improve competitiveness, enhance the economy and improve quality of life in rural areas, and to implement community-lead regeneration activity.

We have set out in the draft rural development programme document, available on the DEFRA website, our key priorities for helping English rural and agricultural businesses to be more competitive and to enhance employment and business opportunities in rural areas. These include:

(i) promoting and encouraging greater collaboration and cooperation

(ii) improving agricultural and forestry industry uptake of technology and entrepreneurial skills

(iii) filling gaps in existing training and advice provision

(iv) promoting the adoption and dissemination of innovative business processes and practices

(v) supporting innovative rural-based business development and enterprise, including diversification and sustainable tourism

(vi) improving skills in the wider rural work force

(vii) tackling social disadvantage through steps to support fair access to services

(viii) supporting areas of economic underperformance and individuals experiencing disadvantage.

We will be making available approximately £600 million over the seven years of the programme in support of these priorities.

We have devolved responsibility for delivery of these priorities to the regional development agencies in England. The RDAs are currently working with partners to finalise the picture of the needs and priorities for their regions and sub-regional areas. Rural business people can contact their local RDA to discuss how any potential project meets the regional objectives of the programme.

Funding will be available once the EU Commission has approved the programme, which we expect to submit later in the spring. The approval process may take around six months.

Each of the RDAs has been operating an expressions of interest approach since October 2006, so that potential beneficiaries from rural development funding can discuss their ideas at the earliest possible stage. They will be making available further information about how to access funding when there is greater certainty about when the programme will begin, following approval by the EU Commission.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the rural development programme for England will financially incentivise environmental stewardship. [132105]

Barry Gardiner: The rural development programme for England 2007-13 will provide about £3.3 billion to land managers for agri-environment and other land management schemes. Around £2.9 billion of this will be used to fund Environmental Stewardship. The incentive for entering an Environmental Stewardship agreement depends on the complexity of the environmental management undertaken. The payment range extends from £30 per hectare to £700 per hectare in multi-annual agreements.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations his Department has received from the Lake District national planning authority on the rural development programme for England. [132106]

Barry Gardiner: A wide range of stakeholders have been consulted on the development of the new programme. The English National Park Authorities' Association responded to the consultation on the priorities for the next programme that we ran last year.

Rural Payments Agency: Pay

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was *(a)* spent on and *(b)* allocated to bonuses for staff in the Rural Payments Agency in the financial year (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2004-05; what the (A) highest and (B) lowest bonus paid in each year was; and what percentage of the total sum in each year was related to staff who have responsibility for rural payments (1) in the north-west and (2) in Eddisbury constituency. [131779]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) paid bonuses to staff at grade 6 and below and to members of the senior civil service between 2004-05 and 2006-07.

£

	Bonuses paid in:		
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Amount spent on bonuses for staff in the RPA	323,567	249,025	243,072
Amount allocated to bonuses for staff in the RPA	387,720	301,705	289,689
The highest bonus paid in each year	18,641	21,062	10,500
The lowest bonus paid in each year	500	75	500

In 2004-05 the RPA paid a flat rate non-consolidated bonus payment of £500 for staff with 'Exceeded' box marks following the end of year individual performance review. This was pro-rated for part time staff. This arrangement was negotiated with the trade union side and implemented as part of the 2004 pay settlement.

In 2005-06 the RPA awarded a flat rate bonus of £550 to staff with 'Exceeded' box marks. This was awarded in two parts. Part one—a half step progression in the pay scale. Part two—the remaining value of the bonus was paid as a non-consolidated lump sum up to the value of £550. This arrangement was negotiated with TUS and implemented as part of the 2005 pay settlement.

In 2006-07 the RPA awarded a flat rate non-consolidated bonus of £500 to staff with 'Exceeded' box marks. This was pro-rated for part time staff. This arrangement was negotiated with TUS and implemented as part of the 2006 pay settlement.

A detailed analysis for staff responsible for payments in the north- west and in Eddisbury constituency is not available.

Sugar

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average price was of a pound of sugar produced *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas in 2006; and what volume of sugar produced in the UK was exported in that year. [132809]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* The volume of exports of sugar[1] from sugar beet was 865 thousand tonnes in 2006.

The information on sugar prices is not available in the form requested. However, the average producer price of refined granulated sugar in the UK in 2006 was 74.4 pence per kilogram.

From statistics on overseas trade the average price of exported sugar derived from the value and volume of exports of sugar[1] from sugar beet was 24.3 pence per kilogram in 2006. The average price of imported sugar derived from the value and volume of imports of sugar[1] was 40.1 pence per kilogram in 2006.

[1] Sugar is in various states—volumes have been adjusted where necessary onto a refined basis

Waste Management

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department have work objectives that make reference to composting; and what the pay band is of each staff member. [132271]

Barry Gardiner: Please find in the table, the information held on the DEFRA e-HR system on how many staff in the department have work objectives that make reference to composting. Please note that this is not comprehensive (in particular it does not include staff in the Senior Civil Service, nor DEFRA agencies). To produce more comprehensive details would be at disproportionate cost.

Pay band	*Number of staff*
B	1
C	1
D	6
F	5
H	5
Total	18

TRANSPORT

A358

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of vehicles he expects the new dual carriageway on the A358 between the M5 and the A303 to carry each day *(a)* on average and *(b)* at peak times of the year. [133209]

Dr. Ladyman: The information is as follows:

(a) The estimate of traffic in the design year (2032) used for assessment purposes in the current option study on the new dual carriageway varies along the routes between 33,800 and 39,700 vehicles (low traffic growth forecast) and between 41,900 and 49,600 vehicles (high traffic growth forecast).

(b) These figures are daily two-way traffic flows averaged over the year; peak period flows have not been modelled for the current stage of development.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* budget is for the construction of the new dual carriageway on the A358 between the M5 and the A303. [133210]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency is currently investigating options for the dualling of the A358 between the A303 and the M5 at Taunton. Neither a timetable nor budget have yet been approved for the implementation of this scheme.

British Transport Police: Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much funding the British Transport police received from *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the rail industry, broken down by service provider, and *(c)* Transport for London in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [132346]

(2) how much funding he expects the British Transport police to receive in 2007-08 from *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the rail industry, broken down by service provider, and *(c)* Transport for London; and if he will make a statement. [132347]

Mr. Tom Harris: Information held by the Department and relevant to the question is as follows:

£ million

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Rail Industry	97	104	127	146	171	188
Transport for London	26	27	33	44	51	54
DfT Capital (provided by SRA prior to 2005-06)	5.4	5.4	7.2	12.5	10	7.5
DFT Other (including loans)	—	—	13	16.6	—	—
Total	128.4	136.4	180.2	219.1	232	249.5

A detailed breakdown by operator is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to increase the speed of Eurostar trains between the Channel Tunnel and London; and if he will make a statement. [133758]

Mr. Tom Harris: The operation of the Eurostar trains is a matter for Eurostar and London and Continental Railways as operator of the railway on which they run, and not for the Secretary of State. There are no current plans to increase the speed of Eurostar trains.

Section 2 of the Channel Tunnel rail link, now known as high speed 1, will open on 14 November 2007. As a result journey times to the Channel Tunnel from London will reduce by some 23 to 25 minutes.

It needs to be borne in mind that higher speeds require additional power and the right balance needs to be struck between keeping journey times short and carbon emissions down.

The speed of the trains on high speed 1 is governed by the design speed of the railway based on track geometry, and the maximum speed of the trains themselves. The maximum speed of the current Eurostar train sets is around 335 kph based on the 2003 record run on section 1. The scheduled line speed between Ebbsfleet and the Channel Tunnel is 275 kph, although trains can travel at up to 300 kph if necessary.

Pedicabs

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received since June 2006 on the application of traffic regulations to pedicabs. [132726]

Gillian Merron: Since June 2006, the Secretary of State has received representations from the Minister for Housing and Planning, the hon. Member for Regent's Park and Kensington, North (Ms Buck), Peter Hendy, Commissioner of Transport for London and Martin Low, director of transportation at Westminster city council.

Railways: Accidents

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the progress of the rail accident investigation into the Oxenholme derailment. [133590]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Rail Accident Investigation Branch is continuing with its investigation into the

derailment and expects to publish a second interim report once its investigation into the condition of the points is complete.

Railways: Air Pollution

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the potential change in carbon dioxide emissions of operating longer trains. [133479]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department has not made such an estimate. However, the Department recognises the carbon advantages that longer trains offer compared to other modes in meeting underlying demand. Based on average occupancy levels, trains produce around half the carbon emissions of cars per passenger kilometre.

Railways: Bicycles

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirement exists for train operating companies *(a)* to carry and *(b)* to provide space for carrying bicycles on their trains; and if he will make a statement. [133452]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department has formally adopted as its own policy the Strategic Rail Authority cycling policy document published in November 2004. It expects all train operating companies to accommodate the carriage of non folding bicycles whenever possible, while recognising that in peak periods there may be circumstances where it is in the best interests of the majority of passengers not to do so.

We believe that TOCs are best placed to know where and when such pressure on capacity exists and should be free to impose restrictions accordingly. TOCs should also specify the services that they define as peak. The carriage of folding bikes is recommended at all times.

The Department has asked Cycling England, its advisory body on cycling, to report on how further improvements to integrate bike and rail journeys might be made.

Railways: Stockport

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the proposed service frequency is for Stockport in the invitation to tender issued by DfT Rail for New Cross Country; and if he will make a statement. [133889]

Mr. Tom Harris: The specification for the New Cross Country franchise requires Stockport to be served by a minimum of one train per hour in each direction. Bidders are free to stop more trains at Stockport if they believe that there is a call to do so and they can reach and agreement with Network Rail.

Railways: Traffic Congestion

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the potential reduction in motor vehicle journeys due to the extra capacity on the rail network. [133478]

Mr. Tom Harris: No estimate has been made of the reduction in motor vehicle journeys due to the extra capacity that will be provided on the rail network.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the 1,000 new carriages in the high level output specification to which he referred in his speech to the rail conference on 14 March 2007 are in addition to any previously existing orders or anticipated orders which provide additional capacity rather than replacing other existing stock; how he expects any additional capacity to be funded; by whom he expects it to be funded; and if he will make a statement. [132504]

Mr. Tom Harris: The 1,000 new carriages will be in addition to any pre-existing orders. It is too early to predict how many of the existing fleet of approximately 11,400 rail carriages will be replaced by 2014. I can, however, reiterate the Government intention to commit to contracting with train operators for 1,000 additional carriages by 2014 to meet the rising demand for rail travel. This will form part of the capacity procured through the rail high level output specification to be published in July and will be in addition to any carriage replacements. The HLOS will be accompanied by a statement of funds available.

Rolling Stock: Virgin Trains

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the 1,000 new train carriages announced on 14 March 2007 will include the 106 carriages needed to reduce congestion on Virgin's Pendolino trains. [133299]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is too early to say where precisely the additional rolling stock will be used. The deployment of the new rolling stock will be agreed with the industry following the publication of the high level output specification and the long-term rail strategy this summer, in accordance with the periodic review timetable set out in the Office of Rail Regulation's advice to Ministers published in February 2007.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Fruit

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what quantity of *(a)* fruit and *(b)* vegetables was purchased by the Refreshment Department in each of the last three years; what the cost of these purchases was in each year; and if the Commission will estimate what percentage of each of these items was imported. [131066]

Nick Harvey: Accounts have not yet been finalised for the full year ending March 2007, but during the 11 months to February 2007, the Refreshment Department spent an estimated *(a)* £103,000 on the purchase of fresh fruit and *(b)* £290,000 on the purchase of fresh

vegetables. Many fruit and vegetables are purchased by individual piece or bunch, not by weight or any other consistent measure, and so it is not possible to give an overall estimate of the quantity of fruit and vegetables purchased. If the hon. Member wishes to know the estimated quantity of specific items purchased during this period, he should write to the director of catering services, who will be pleased to let him have such details.

Detailed purchase information is not currently available for the year 2005-06 due to technical issues that are being investigated by the software supplier. The director of catering services will write to the hon. Member with the purchase expenditure for fruit and vegetables when the requested information becomes available. No information is available for previous years.

No record is kept of the country of origin of fruit and vegetables purchased and so it is not possible to estimate the percentage of imported produce.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many comfort boxes sent to UK military personnel in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq have been robbed (i) in transit and (ii) on arrival in theatre since the beginning of the current engagement. [132765]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* As these incidents occurred at various times and places, the Royal Military Police have been asked to gather all the reports together. Once the details have been collated, I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what security measures he is taking to prevent comfort boxes sent to UK military personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan from being robbed. [132766]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* Comfort boxes are secured in a standard transport container, using a security seal, by the unit concerned. Containers are then transported to a UK port, shipped by sea to the relevant port for the theatre and off-loaded prior to being transported using road transport to the location in-theatre where they are handed back to the unit, at which point the seals are checked again. From this point, containers are transported by road to the unit's base location.

The Royal Military Police are currently gathering information on any thefts that have occurred during transit. Once the details have been collated and any possible improvements to container security in transit have been identified, I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 854W, on the armed forces: casualties, whether the full board of inquiry report has been made available to the next of kin; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [133167]

Mr. Ingram: The remainder of the board of inquiry report into the death of Private Jason Smith, redacted in accordance with Data Protection and Freedom of Information Act considerations, has been made available to his next of kin, through their solicitor.

The redacted board of inquiry report will be added to the Ministry of Defence publication scheme and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Inquests

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his statement of 17 April, on service personnel killed on operations: changes to arrangements for repatriation, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the resources available to the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner to carry out military inquests. [132983]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The MOD engaged fully with the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner's office and Wiltshire county council during the planning stages to change the repatriation airhead from RAF Brize Norton to RAF Lynham. The Wiltshire and Swindon coroner plans to transfer as many inquests as he can to the jurisdiction of the "home" coroner.

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to mark the 40th anniversary of the deployment of troops to Northern Ireland in 1969; and what representations he has received on the matter. [133149]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence does not intend to formally mark the 40th anniversary of the deployment of troops, although we are currently looking at appropriate ways of marking the end of Operation Banner which concludes on 31 July 2007. I hope to be in a position to announce the Department's plans to the House soon. The Department has received four representations from hon. Members on this topic and a number of inquiries from members of the public.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how he made the calculation that the impact of the Budget on the lowest paid members of the armed forces who are single is that they will be worse off by the equivalent of £1 per week. [131081]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* The calculation is based on the impact of the income tax rates and allowances for 2007-08 given in the Budget report, together with the reforms to personal tax which come into effect on 1 April 2008.

Those with children may benefit from changes to the child element of child tax credit and the working tax credit threshold.

Other relevant recent changes to armed forces remuneration include the pay rise for all service

personnel which came into effect on 1 April 2007, when the annual salary of the lowest paid fully trained service personnel increased from £14,323 to £15,677—an increase in gross pay of £26 per week; and the new operational bonus introduced in October, which amounts to £12.31 per day, tax free, for all those deployed in Afghanistan, Iraq, or the Balkans.

Ballistic Missile Defence: USA

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the risks and benefits to the UK of allowing the US to install a ballistic missile defence system on British territory. [130966]

Des Browne: The UK already makes a valuable contribution to the US ballistic missile defence system through the programme to upgrade RAF Fylingdales. In 2002 the Ministry of Defence published a public discussion paper on missile defence, copies of which are available in the Library of the House and on the MOD website:

www.mod.uk.

Defence and Communications Services Agency

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost has been of the project to rationalise communication systems in the Defence and Communications Services Agency; how many *(a)* consultants and *(b)* contractors have been employed in its implementation; at what cost; and if he will make a statement; [133001]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implementation of the Defence and Communication Services Agency's information technology project; whether he plans to establish an independent review of the programme; and if he will make a statement; [133009]

(3) what the role of the ATLAS consortium was in the information technology rationalisation link; what the cost was of the Defence Information Infrastructure final solutions programme; and how many contractors were employed in its implementation. [133010]

Derek Twigg: Defence information infrastructure (Future) (DII(F)) is a £4 billion programme over 10 years, which will provide a single, coherent information infrastructure across defence. Its implementation, on an incremental basis, will underpin MOD's change programme and modernising Government agenda.

The ATLAS Consortium (comprising EDS Defence Ltd as the principal contractor, with Fujitsu, General Dynamics, EADS and Logica CMG as key sub-contractors) was awarded the DII(F) contract on 21 March 2005 for a period of 10 years following full and open competition. The contract is subject to incremental commitment and implementation and at contract award the Department committed to the first increment only for the provision of a fully networked and managed IT service to around 70,000 user access devices and 200,000 users around the world. The contract was amended on 29 December 2006 to incorporate a second planned increment (2a) which will provide for nearly 44,000 additional user access devices and 58,000 user accounts in support of the defence change programme and other identified business priorities. This amendment was made in the light of an assessment of ATLAS' performance in supplying increment 1 up to that point in its delivery schedule. The number of employees within the consortium is a matter for them but it is of the order of 2000, on average.

The number of consultants employed by MOD on the DII(F) project has varied and will continue to vary across the life of the project. As a result, the precise information requested together with the associated expenditure can be provided only at disproportionate cost, when looked at over the total life of the programme from its inception. The total budget for consultants approved to date under the DII programme is £57.5 million (rounded) since the inception of the programme, including work during the concept and assessment phases, leading up to the main competition and subsequently for later increments. As at 18 April 2007 the number directly employed on the project was 164.

Throughout its life, the DII(F) project has been subject to regular review under the Office of Government Commerce gateway review procedure. Those reviews confirmed that the project is proceeding satisfactorily. As a result, I see no need for a further strategic review of the project at this time; the case for it remains valid and the contracted increments are proceeding within budgetary provision.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many private consultants were employed in each of the last 24 months by the Defence and Communication Services Agency; at what cost; and if he will make a statement; [133006]

(2) how much was spent by the Defence and Communication Services Agency on external management consultants in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [133008]

Mr. Ingram: It is not possible to provide the number of consultants employed as we do not "employ" consultants on an individual basis—we contract with private consultancy companies for a service to provide clearly defined deliverables on agreed packages of work within specified timescales. The procurement of such consultancy assistance from the private sector is called "external assistance". However, the following table details the cost of engaging external assistance by the Defence Communication Services Agency—now DEandS Information Systems and Services—over the past five years.

	£ million
2002-03	20.538
2003-04	27.478
2004-05	33.922
2005-06	34.702
2006-07	[1]24.767

[1] This reflects the last forecast of outturn for financial year 2006-07 as at October 2006. Final figures not expected before early May 2007.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on hospitality by his Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133250]

Derek Twigg: As in previous years, we will publish this information in the MOD's annual report and accounts. I cannot therefore give a figure at this stage as the accounts are currently subject to audit by the National Audit Office. Copies of the annual report will be placed in the House Library on publication and made available on the departmental website at www.mod.uk. I expect this to be before the summer recess.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many people in his Department participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement; [131546]

(2) how many people in his Department who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [131551]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence records the number of people who leave the Department early but the records do not always show whether an individual has left under an early release scheme or whether the departure was for voluntary or compulsory reasons. The following table reflects the data held for the period requested and where we know it, whether they have left voluntarily or involuntarily. "Unconfirmed" is used where we do not know whether the departure was on voluntary or involuntary terms:

	Voluntary	*Involuntary*	*Unconfirmed*	*Grand total*
1997-98	600	655	475	1,730
1998-99	120	640	410	1,175
1999-2000	245	720	720	1,685
2000-01	220	430	710	1,365
2001-02	120	430	435	990
2002-03	170	435	195	800
2003-04	195	640	925	1,755
2004-05	265	330	450	1,045
2005-06	950	320	455	1,725
2006-07	650	330	595	1,575

Note:
All numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum to the total figure precisely.
Source:
DASA (Civilian)

To provide the specific information on the sum that individuals were paid against each price band would require a Departmental-wide trawl. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been achieved since October 2006 on military reform in the Iraqi provinces of *(a)* Al Basrah, *(b)* Al Muthanna, *(c)* Dhi Qar and (d) Maysan; and if he will make a statement. [132523]

Des Browne: 10 Division of the Iraqi Army, which covers all four provinces, has made significant progress. This was recently highlighted in Maysan when security responsibility for the province was transferred to the Iraqis. This transition occurred in Al Muthanna and Dhi Qar provinces in July and September 2006 respectively.

In October 2006, 10 Division's capability was demonstrated when it took the lead in the later phases of Operation Sinbad in Basra, operating without overt coalition assistance. Elements of 10 Division are also supporting the Baghdad security plan. Coalition forces continue to provide training and mentoring and much remains to be done in the areas of logistics and leadership.

Operational control of 10 Division was transferred to the new Iraqi military headquarters in Baghdad in January 2007. This transfer of command and control is a critical step toward handing over responsibility for delivering security in southern Iraq.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the reasons for the number of personnel listed as having sustained disease or non-battle injury during November 2006 as part of Operation Herrick and Operation Telic; and if he will make a statement. [132849]

Des Browne: The temporary increase in levels of disease or non-battle injuries in both Operations Telic and Herrick was a result of the roulements in both theatres. An increase in those being treated for diarrhoea and vomiting type illnesses is common at such times, largely as a result of the climatic, food and environment changes experienced by those deploying into operational theatres. While such symptoms are unlikely to result in a patient being admitted to a hospital in the UK, individuals are admitted to hospital in theatre as returning them to barracks may lead to the spread of disease.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* the net cost has been of the British military operations in Iraq in each year from 2002-03 and *(b)* the predicted cost is of continued British military presence in Iraq, broken down by month. [133408]

Des Browne: The costs of operations are calculated on a net additional basis and audited figures are published each year in the MOD's annual report and accounts. The total of the annual audited figures for the costs of operations in Iraq for the years 2002-03 to 2005-06 was £4,026 million. A total estimated cost of £1,002 million for 2006-07 was included in the spring supplementary estimates published in February. Final figures will be published in the MOD's annual report and accounts for 2006-07.

It is not possible to provide estimates for future years as planning assumptions are constantly changing with the varying tempo and requirements of the operation.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on information exchange with the US in the last 12 months with regard to achieving sovereign capability on the joint strike fighter; and if he will make a statement. [132906]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1440W, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Rendition

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1455W, on rendition, whether the bilateral arrangements mentioned apply to state aircraft acting in a civilian capacity. [133763]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* The Department's bilateral arrangements cover routine flights by military aircraft from the relevant countries transiting UK airspace and landing in the UK. They also apply to other state aircraft landing at UK military airfields on routine business. These arrangements do not provide any form of immunity from customs and immigration procedures, national or international law, or regulations covering safe use of UK airspace. Action would be taken by the appropriate authority with MOD support should illegal activity be detected.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

British Grand Prix

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had on the future of Formula One Grand Prix racing at Silverstone. [133159]

Mr. Caborn: The Government support and desire a British Grand Prix at Silverstone but our role remains one of dialogue and facilitation.

I have attended a number of meetings to discuss the future of Formula One Grand Prix racing at Silverstone. The most recent meeting was on 20 March with the British Racing Drivers Club (BRDC) to discuss their plans for redevelopment of the Silverstone circuit.

Gaming Machines: Standards

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the testing regime for ensuring that gaming machines comply with the technical standards required under the Gambling Act 2005 has been finalised. [133162]

Mr. Caborn: The testing regime for ensuring that gaming machines comply with the technical standards required under the Gambling Act 2005 has not been fully finalised. The Gambling Commission is working closely with the industry to discuss the testing regime and the timetable for those tests, including any necessary transitional arrangements to cover machines already in the market. The aim is for the overall testing strategy to be finalised in good time before the provisions of the Act become effective from 1 September 2007.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether contractors have been selected to undertake on behalf of the Gambling Commission the tests required to ensure that gaming machines comply with the technical standards required under the Gambling Act 2005. [133163]

Mr. Caborn: The Gambling Commission has invited test houses to apply for approval to carry out tests required to ensure that gaming machines and remote gambling systems comply with the technical standards required under the Gambling Act. All prospective test houses will be required to undergo a Commission assessment on the suitability, integrity and independence of their business. They will also need to demonstrate accreditation to BS/EN ISO 17025, plus any additional features (skills, capabilities, capacity) that may be required to test to the Commission's technical standards. All test houses which meet the requirements will be granted approval, and operators will be able to choose which approved test house to use. The Commission has received three applications to date.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what recent discussions her Department has had with personnel from HM Treasury on the future of the Tote; [133566]

(2) if she will make a statement on the progress of the sale of the Tote. [133567]

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what discussions she has had with the Treasury concerning the potential sale of the Tote; [133738]

(2) what plans she has for the sale of the Tote. [133750]

Mr. Caborn: The Government have received and are considering a bid for the Tote from a consortium of racing interests and the staff and management of the Tote itself. The Government will announce shortly how they intend to proceed.

National Lottery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average *(a)* value of lottery receipts from sales made, *(b)* number of applications for lottery awards from and *(c)* number of lottery awards made in (i) England, (ii) the Eastern Region and *(c)* Castle Point was in each of the last five years. [133448]

Mr. Caborn: The national lottery operator, Camelot, does not collect ticket sales information on a constituency basis and does not routinely collect ticket sales data on a postcode basis. The most up-to-date sales data by postcode area are available in the Libraries of both Houses and provide information up to 2004. Information about the number of applications for lottery grants is not held centrally and the information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The number and value of lottery awards made in England, in the Eastern Region and in the Castle Point parliamentary constituency in each of the last five completed financial years is given in the following table. This information is derived from the Department's lottery grants database, which uses information supplied by the lottery distributors and can be searched at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

	England		*Eastern Region*		*Castle Point*	
	Number of awards	*Value of awards to nearest £1 million*	*Number of awards*	*Value of awards to nearest £1 million*	*Number of awards*	*Value of awards to nearest £0.01 million*
2002-03	19,484	1,081	1,823	94	12	1.03
2003-04	19,340	1,070	1,681	79	16	0.91
2004-05	16,064	1,172	2,296	87	24	0.19
2005-06	19,574	748	2,620	53	18	0.42
2006-07	14,477	550	1,404	40	9	0.10

Olympic Games: Greater London

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department plans to take to ensure that Colchester shares in the *(a)* economic, *(b)* social and *(c)* sporting benefits arising from the 2012 Olympic games. [133376]

Mr. Caborn: The Government are committed to ensuring that people across the UK, including Colchester can benefit from, and participate in, the 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games. We are working closely with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) and the Nations and Regions Group (NRG), chaired by Charles Allen, which brings together representatives from every nation and region. Each nation and region is finalising its own plan to maximise the impact of the games in their area, as well as the wider opportunities to deliver a sustainable legacy from the games. The East of England released its regional plan on 28 March 2007. In developing the plan, consultation has taken place over the last two years. It can be found on the East of England Regional Development Agency website:

<http://www.eeda.org.uk/27.asp>

Further detailed information regarding the region's plan can be provided by the relevant NRG Coordinator, Katie Huane (East of England Development Agency, The Business Centre, Station Road, Histon, Cambridge, CB4 9LQ).

In addition, Broxbourne in Hertfordshire will host the 2012 canoeing and kayaking and Weald country park near Brentwood in Essex will also host the Olympic mountain biking competitions. Together these events will add significant strength to the region's potential to benefit from the games.

Sport England: Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Sport England spent on administration and running costs in each region in each of the last eight years. [133434]

Mr. Caborn: The information requested for the last eight years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The table shows the regional administration costs, excluding salary costs, for the last six years.

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Total*
North East	59,462	59,828	94,616	107,090	135,051	84,900	540,947
Yorks	104,004	111,185	146,495	106,896	178,036	125,086	771,702
East Midlands	79,119	82,438	91,553	89,043	101,704	167,962	611,819
East	82,939	78,786	80,512	84,596	99,868	114,420	541,121
London	61,040	67,762	33,705	8,840	2,102	2,029	175,482
South East	146,710	177,866	196,339	173,919	148,374	152,868	996,082
South West	48,152	60,066	69,684	78,511	48,410	48,338	351,161
West Midlands	147,061	136,944	116,605	77,131	106,117	126,392	710,250
North West	159,226	151,313	137,078	177,440	162,935	175,653	963,645
Total	887,723	926,188	966,587	901,466	982,597	997,648	5,662,209

Sport England: Manpower

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people Sport England employed in each region in each of the last eight years. [133433]

Mr. Caborn: The information on staff employed in each Sport England region is not held in the format requested and could be provided for the eight year period only at disproportionate cost. The total number of staff employed in the regions over the last four years are:

	Total number of Sport England employees	Number of regional Sport England employees	Number of support centre employees
2004	311	173	138
2005	292	160	132
2006	239	140	99
2007[1]	276	174	102

[1] As at 31 March 2007

For 2007 the staff numbers by region are:

Region	Number
East	17
East Midlands	18
London	21
North East	19
North West	20
South East	20
South West	21
West Midlands	21
Yorkshire	17

Sport England: Publicity

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Sport England spent on advertising in each of the last eight years. [133329]

Mr. Caborn: Information on money spent on advertising could be provided for the eight year period only at disproportionate cost. Money spent on recruitment advertising and Everyday Sport over the last six years is:

	Advertising	Everyday Sport
2001-02	477,083	—
2002-03	159,000	—
2003-04	72,000	—
2004-05	134,000	—
2005-06	265,000	2,001,043
2006-07	470,000	859,307

Sport England: Finance

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of Sport England's budget was spent on *(a)* sporting events, *(b)* capital spending on sports facilities and *(c)* support for individual sports men and women in each of the last eight years. [133435]

Mr. Caborn: Data for the past eight years could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The table shows the percentage of Sport England's budget spent on *(a)* sports events, *(b)* capital spending on sports facilities and *(c)* support for individual sports men and women over in each of the last six years.

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Percentage of budget spent on sports events	0.07	0.06	0.00	0.02	0.09	0.03
Percentage of budget spent on capital facilities	37	69	39	27	40	4
Percentage of budget spent on support for individuals [1]	1	1	1	1	0	0

[1] World class athlete payments

Sports: Schools

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will instigate a national debate to promote sport and fitness in schools. [133654]

Mr. Caborn: The Government implemented the National School Sport Strategy in 2002. This is underpinned by a joint DCMS/DfES PSA target, to increase the percentage of five to 16-year-olds participating in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport each week to 85 per cent. by 2008.

The 2005-06 annual school sport survey showed that 80 per cent. of pupils in school sport partnership schools are participating in at least two hours in a typical week, which surpassed the target of 75 per cent. We are therefore making excellent progress towards the PSA target of 85 per cent. by 2008. The long-term ambition is to offer all children at least four hours of sport a week by 2010, comprising two hours at school and a further two to three hours delivered by a range of school, community and club providers.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Departments: Parliamentary Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many oral questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to his Department have been transferred to other departments since May 2005. [133797]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A total of 14 oral questions, tabled to this Department since May 2005, have been transferred to other Government Departments.

Financial Services: Marketing

Frank Cook: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what safeguards are in place to ensure that businesses offering individual voluntary arrangements do not use misleading marketing; and if he will make a statement. [134172]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Only an authorised insolvency practitioner is able to administer an individual voluntary arrangement. Insolvency practitioners are required to comply with professional standards agreed

by the bodies that regulate them. All of the authorising bodies apply common ethical codes and professional standards to the insolvency practitioners and the way in which they obtain their work falls within the regulatory regime.

In addition the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has made it clear that insolvency practitioners who act in relation to individual voluntary arrangements require a Consumer Credit License and are therefore subject to OFT regulation.

Earlier this year the OFT warned 26 IVA providers that their advertisements and/or websites were potentially misleading and the OFT continues to monitor that situation.

Natural Gas: Prices

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the percentage of the price of gas from the cost of companies buying gas is maintained through price fluctuations. [133379]

Malcolm Wicks: This is a commercial matter for the gas supply companies. As I mentioned in an earlier answer on 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1602W, Ofgem, as the independent sectoral regulator, keeps the level of competition in the gas market under review, and has the powers it needs to deal with any failure of competition.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1601W, on natural gas: prices, what steps the Government have taken to encourage gas companies to consider their most valuable customers; and what the results were of such encouragement. [133380]

Malcolm Wicks: Subject to any regulatory controls, it is for gas suppliers, not Government, to determine who their most valuable customers are.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will instruct the regulator to analyse and to report to him on the time taken between raw material gas prices falling and any reductions in domestic retail gas prices; and if he will place such a report in the Library. [133647]

Malcolm Wicks: No. Ofgem, as the independent sectoral regulator, produced a fact-sheet last month called 'Household Energy Bills Explained', which explains why there is a time lag between the falls in the wholesale price and domestic prices see:

http://www.ofgem.gov/uk/Media/FactSheets/Documents1/Update%20-%20Household%20energy%20bills%20explained.pdf.

As I mentioned in an earlier answer on 2 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1602W, Ofgem keeps the level of competition in the gas market under review, and has the powers it needs to deal with any failure of competition.

Redfern: Inquiry

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Redfern Inquiry will have access to the National Archives files on radiation exposure experiments from 1950. [133214]

Malcolm Wicks: If Mr. Redfern wishes to have access to the National Archives files on radiation exposure experiments, I am sure that he will make appropriate representations to see them.

Small Business Service

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the reorganisation of the Small Business Service. [133864]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 26 October 2006, *Official Report*, columns 95-97WS.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Absconding Prisoners

9. **Mr. Dodds**: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what plans he has to introduce greater deterrents for prisoners who abscond from custody in Northern Ireland. [132691]

Paul Goggins: Details of prisoners who escape from prison custody are brought to the attention of the relevant authorities with a view to prosecution. In cases where prisoners have absconded while on temporary release, prosecution is also possible.

In addition, the governor is able to punish the prisoner with a range of measures including cellular confinement. The prisoner also has the number of days he was unlawfully at large added to his original release date.

Alzheimer's Treatment

12. **Lady Hermon**: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, if he will make a statement on the provision of Alzheimer's treatment by the NHS in Northern Ireland. [132694]

Paul Goggins: A range of treatment and care is provided for people with Alzheimer's disease, across the primary, community, specialist and secondary care sectors.

The treatment and management of Alzheimer's disease includes life-style measures and therapeutic interventions, which aim to promote active physical and mental health and help maintain an individual's capacity for independence. Appropriate drug interventions are also provided, including medicines designed to improve cognitive function.

Northern Ireland Office

13. **Mr. Hollobone**: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what effect he expects the transfer of responsibilities to the devolved Assembly to have on the future size of the Northern Ireland Office; and what estimate he has made of the likely change in administrative costs. [132695]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office—as distinct from the 11 Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments—will be relatively unaffected by the restoration of devolution on 8 May, although there will be a reduction in the NIO ministerial team.

The eventual devolution of policing and justice functions will, of course, have a much greater impact on the size of the NIO. When that happens, the respective administrative funding streams attached to those functions will devolve with them.

Cancer

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were diagnosed with cancer in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years, broken down by type of cancer. [133107]

Paul Goggins: The following table details information on the incidence of cancers by type of cancer in Northern Ireland for each of the last six years for which data were available.

Table: Cancer incidence in Northern Ireland 1999-2004

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Lip, Oral Cavity &Pharynx (COO-C14)	147	127	128	129	132	153
Oesophagus (CIS)	153	138	165	144	150	155
Stomach (C16)	264	234	255	258	263	203
Small intestine (C17)	30	38	23	24	27	24
Colon (CIS)	623	545	586	617	623	598
Rectum, Rectosigmoid Junction and Anus (C19-21)	282	338	368	299	388	356
Liver & Intrahepatic Bile Ducts (C22)	52	64	25	65	54	46
Pancreas (C25)	122	146	171	170	160	153
Larynx (C32)	79	60	64	64	62	53
Trachea, Bronchus & Lung (C33,C34)	870	860	893	868	892	932
Bone (C40-41)	12	11	7	8	11	17
Malignant Melanoma (C43)	178	187	216	247	212	260
Non-melanoma Skin Cancer (C44)	2260	2211	2160	2380	2417	2283
Mesothelioma (C45)	63	44	56	59	42	46
Breast (C50)	954	967	931	953	1043	1119
Cervix Uteri (C53)	76	94	72	82	75	67
Corpus Uteri (C54)	119	144	143	158	176	156
Ovary (C56)	183	168	177	191	214	205
Prostate (C61)	494	576	554	652	739	757
Testis (C62)	56	68	51	56	56	69
Kidney (C64-C66,C68)	159	161	169	181	206	187
Bladder (C67)	214	210	183	171	225	210
Brain (C71)	85	110	119	124	116	89
Thyroid (C73)	41	38	42	49	43	33
Hodgkin's Disease (C81)	40	36	40	28	37	40
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (C82-C85,C96)	248	270	252	255	267	282
Multiple Myeloma (C90)	85	110	117	97	104	102
Leukaemia (C91-C95)	148	167	143	178	122	145
Other	579	607	589	677	589	565
Total	8614	8729	8699	9184	9445	9305

Notes:
1. Incidence refers to the number of new cases of a cancer diagnosed in Northern Ireland for a particular period.
2. Incidence of cancer are identified using version 10 of the international classification of diseases and related health problems (ICD10).
3. The "Other" category includes other haematological cancers, cancer of the gallbladder, other biliary tract and other digestive system, cancer of other connective systems, cancer of the vulva, vagina and penis, cancer of the eye and lymph nodes and cancers with an ill defined or unknown primary site.

This information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry and is the most up to date currently available.

Doctors: Training

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the evidential basis was for the decision on the relative proportion of speciality training and fixed term speciality training posts in Northern Ireland; and by whom the decision was made. [133705]

Paul Goggins: The decision on the proportion of speciality training and fixed terms speciality training posts in NI was based on work force planning projections. The decision was made by my Department in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost has been of *(a)* modernising medical careers in Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Medical Training Application Service in Northern Ireland. [133706]

Paul Goggins: The total cost attributed to Modernising Medical Careers is £1.7 million.

The total spend to date for the introduction of Modernising Medical Careers is £1.565 million. The Northern Ireland contribution to the Medical Training Application Service is £165,000.

Domestic Wastes

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* total and *(b)* average amount of domestic waste was produced per household in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [133926]

David Cairns: The latest complete and validated data for municipal waste is for the financial year 2005-06. This indicates that:

(a) The total amount of household waste arisings in Northern Ireland for 2005-06 was 937,331 tonnes.

(b) The average amount of waste collected per household in 2005-06 was 1.36 tonnes, equating to 26.2 kg per household per week.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which programmes have been funded in Northern Ireland from the PEACE budget of the European Regional Development Fund in the last 12 months. [133550]

Mr. Hanson: A list of projects awarded funding since April 2006 under the European Regional Development Fund measures of the PEACE II Programme has been placed in the Library of the House. In addition to this, 46 individuals have been awarded funding. Due to data protection considerations these names have not been included.

Fly Tipping

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had in the last 12 months with Ministers from the government of the Republic of Ireland on illegal dumping in Northern Ireland of waste from the Republic of Ireland. [133925]

David Cairns: I discussed the matter of illegal cross-border waste movements at a meeting with Dick Roche, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in Ireland on 2 October 2006. Issues discussed, including enhanced co-operation between the relevant authorities on illegal waste movements, are being carried forward by officials in both jurisdictions.

Health Services

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are planned to be taken to ensure that sufficient medical staff are available to provide a high standard of patient care in Northern Ireland during the first week of August 2007. [133793]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency is implementing a rigorous recruitment process that will be completed by the end of May. The best quality applicants will be appointed and will be in post by 1 August 2007.

International Fund for Ireland

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which projects have been funded in Northern Ireland by the International Fund for Ireland in the last 12 months. [133548]

Mr. Hanson: The International Fund for Ireland is administered by an independent board appointed jointly by the British and Irish Governments and all matters pertaining to the projects supported by the fund are a matter for that board. I will forward the request to the chairman of the International Fund for Ireland and ask him to respond directly and I will place a copy of the reply in the House of Commons Library.

The fund's annual reports list the projects funded. The 2006 report has been published and a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Local Government

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, what powers and responsibilities he intends to devolve to councils in Northern Ireland. [132683]

David Cairns: Details are set out in statements made on 22 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 106-111WS and on 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS.

Ministerial Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days he spent in Northern Ireland on official business in each of the last 12 months; and on how many occasions he stayed overnight. [133621]

Mr. Hain: From April 2006 to March 2007 inclusive, I have spent 123 days in Northern Ireland. It is not appropriate to disclose details of where I spend my nights as this is considered personal information with security implications.

In addition to the time spent in Northern Ireland, I undertake NIO business in Parliament and in the Northern Ireland Office, London. As a member of the Cabinet I have additional duties including attending Cabinet meetings on Thursday mornings.

Northern Ireland Authority for Energy Regulation: Public Appointments

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Northern Ireland approved the procedure for the recent appointment of a board member of the Northern Ireland Authority for Energy Regulation. [133592]

Maria Eagle: The recent appointment by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment to the board of the Northern Ireland Authority for Energy Regulation (since 1 April 2007 the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation) was carried out with the approval of the Commissioner for Public Appointments for NI (OCPANI), under the OCPANI monitored kitemark scheme.

Pedestrian Crossings: Bangor

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many complaints his Department has received about the lack of pedestrian crossing provision on the High Donaghadee Road in Bangor, near to Montgomery Court; [133111]

(2) what assessment he has made of the health and safety implications of the lack of pedestrian crossing provision on the High Donaghadee Road in Bangor, near to Montgomery Court; [133115]

(3) if he will allocate funding to provide pedestrian crossing on the High Donaghadee Road in Bangor, near to Montgomery Court; [133116]

(4) what the *(a)* date, *(b)* time, *(c)* duration and *(d)* nature was of each survey carried out on the High Donaghadee Road in Bangor, near Montgomery Court, in order to assess the need for a pedestrian crossing in the provision at this location; [133389]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Roads Service (Dr. Malcolm McKibbin) has been asked to write to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Dr. Malcolm McKibbin, dated 24 April 2007:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland 4 Parliamentary Questions regarding:

how many complaints his Department has received about the lack of pedestrian crossing provision on the High Donaghadee Road in Bangor, near to Montgomery Court. (133111)

what assessment he has made of the health and safety implications of the lack of pedestrian crossing provision on the High Donaghadee Road in Bangor, near to Montgomery Court. (133115)

if he will allocate funding to provide pedestrian crossing on the High Donaghadee Road in Bangor, near to Montgomery Court. (133116)

what the (a) date, (b) time, (c) duration and (d) nature was of surveys carried out on the High Donaghadee Road in Bangor, near Montgomery Court, in order to assess the need or a pedestrian crossing in the provision of this location. (133389)

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

I should explain that Roads Service's policy in relation to pedestrian crossings is to provide such facilities where there is an identifiable need and where the conditions at any potential site make it difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road. An integral part of the process is an assessment of the 'demand' and 'difficulty' of crossing the road at the location concerned. The initial part of our assessment process uses the number of pedestrians (the initial demand factor) and the volume of traffic (the initial difficulty factor) to give an indication of the potential 'conflict' at a site. The assessment of the need for a crossing is then supplemented using a scorecard, which assigns scores to various other 'demand' and 'difficulty' factors, including collision history at the site. This policy is designed to assess the need and to prioritise locations where pedestrians encounter difficulties in crossing the road due to the high volumes of vehicular traffic. This is applied consistently and impartially when assessing all requests in Northern Ireland, so that available funding can be directed at those with the greatest need.

With regard to the number of complaints received in relation to the lack of crossing facilities on the High Donaghadee Road between the roundabout with the East Circular road and the junction with the Ballycrochan Road, I can advise that since September 2005, five individuals have corresponded with Roads Service over this issue. In total these five people have written on nine occasions, with one resident including a petition of approximately 150 signatures. Roads Service has no record of complaints about the lack of pedestrian crossing facilities at this location prior to 2005.

In relation to health and safety implications, I am advised that survey observations, obtained as part of the process for determining the need for a controlled pedestrian crossing facility, concluded that there were a very small number of pedestrians wishing to cross the road at this location and as such, it was considered that there was little conflict between pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

In light of the survey findings, I am afraid that it is not possible to make funding available for a controlled pedestrian crossing facility at this location at this time. However, in such circumstances Roads Service may consider other measures to assist pedestrians, such as footway build-outs and central refuge islands, which shorten the crossing width and improve visibility thereby reducing the crossing difficulty. Central refuges can be particularly useful to vulnerable pedestrians such as elderly people.

I am pleased to advise you that Roads Service is presently designing such a scheme for this location. However, I have to stress that this proposal is at a very early stage and will require a degree of public consultation prior to the detailed layout being finalised. Hopefully we will be able to complete this work within the current financial year.

Finally, with regard to your enquiry for details of the surveys, I can advise that they were carried out on the High Donaghadee Road, between Ballymaconnell Road South and Ballycrochan Road, on 7 September 2005 between 8 and 10 am, on 3 October 2005 between 2 and 4 pm and on 5 October 2005 between 4 and 6 pm. Surveys were also carried out on the High Donaghadee Road, between Ashford Drive and Kilmaine Road, on 9 November 2005 between 4 and 6 pm and on 10 November 2005 between 8 and 10 am. These surveys involved the counting of vehicles passing along the High Donaghadee Road and the numbers of pedestrians crossing within 50m either side of the centre of the survey zone.

Public Libraries: Bangor

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment has been made by his Department of the adequacy of the public library provision in Bangor; and if he will make a statement. [133108]

Maria Eagle: Responsibility for delivering the Northern Ireland public library service, including securing appropriate library accommodation for this area, rests with the South Eastern Education and Library Board (SEELB).

DCAL has approved funding for a major extension and refurbishment of the existing Bangor library. The enhanced library will provide accommodation of over 2,000m^2 making it one of the largest public libraries in Northern Ireland.

The SEELB had to decant from Bangor library at the end of March 2007 to facilitate the commencement of this work. Arrangements are being made for the library to open in temporary premises in two units in the Flagship shopping centre from 21 May 2007 for the duration of the contract. Until 21 May, a library service will be provided from a mobile library outside the Hamilton road library. Information on these temporary arrangements has been made widely available by the SEELB.

Religious Persons

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions in the last 12 months *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have met leaders of (i) the Presbyterian Church, (ii) the Roman Catholic Church, (iii) the Church of Ireland, (iv) the Methodist Church, (v) the Baptist Union of Ireland, (vi) the Free Presbyterian Church, (vii) the Elim Pentecostal Church, (viii) the Reformed Presbyterian Church (ix) the Congregational Union of Ireland, (x) the Evangelican Alliance (xi) Evangelical Continuation in Northern Ireland and (xi) the Caleb Foundation. [132889]

Mr. Hain: I have met church leaders on numerous occasions as have my Ministers in my Department. Ministers and civil servants meet a large number of people and groups in the course of their official duties. It is not normal practice to disclose the detail of such meetings.

Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were *(a)* prosecuted

and (*b*) convicted on charges relating to having sexual intercourse with an underage person in each district command unit of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last three years; what percentage of these cases resulted in a custodial sentence; and what the average length of the prison term was. [132151]

Mr. Hanson: Data relating to the number of prosecutions and convictions for sexual intercourse with an underage person are not collected. It is only possible to provide information for those offences which, by their definition, identify a child as the victim of buggery and unlawful carnal knowledge.

Table 1 gives the number of prosecutions and convictions for buggery and unlawful carnal knowledge offences by District Command Unit for the calendar years 2003 to 2005.

Due to small numbers of prosecutions and convictions in each District Command Unit, the average length of those sentenced to immediate custody has not been provided for individual District Command Units. Tables 2 to 4 document the total number prosecuted and convicted, the number and percentage sentenced to immediate custody and the average sentence length in months for these offences in each of the three years.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: Number of prosecution and convictions for buggery and unlawful carnal knowledge offences by District Command Unit 2003-05[1,2,3,4,5,6]

	2003		2004		2005	
	Prosecuted	*Convicted*	*Prosecuted*	*Convicted*	*Prosecuted*	*Convicted*
Buggery						
Antrim	0	0	1	1	0	0
Ards	0	0	3	0	0	0
Belfast, East	0	0	1	1	0	0
Belfast, West	1	0	0	0	2	1
Ballymena	0	0	2	1	0	0
Ballymoney	0	0	1	1	0	0
Carrickfergus	1	1	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	0	0	0	0	1	0
Down	0	0	1	1	0	0
Fermanagh	0	0	1	0	0	0
Foyle	0	0	4	2	0	0
Lisburn	0	0	0	0	1	0
Newtownabbey	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	2	1	14	7	5	1
Unlawful carnal knowledge						
Antrim	1	1	0	0	0	0
Belfast, East	0	0	1	1	0	0
Belfast, South	1	1	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	1	1	0	0	1	0
Ballymena	0	0	1	1	0	0
Down	1	1	0	0	0	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	0	1	0	0	0
Larne	0	0	1	1	0	0
Limavady	1	1	0	0	1	1
Lisburn	0	0	1	1	0	0
Newtownabbey	0	0	0	0	2	2
North Down	0	0	0	0	1	1
Omagh	0	0	0	0	2	2
Strabane	0	0	1	1	1	1
Other UK addresses	1	1	1	1	0	0
Total	6	6	7	6	8	7
Overall total	8	7	21	13	13	8

Table 2: Number prosecuted, convicted, the number and percentage sentenced to immediate custody and the average sentence length (months) for buggery and unlawful carnal knowledge offences 2003[1,2,3,4]

	Prosecuted	*Convicted*	*Number given immediate custody*	*Percentage given immediate custody*	*Average sentence length (Months)*
Buggery	2	1	1	100	84
Unlawful carnal knowledge	6	6	1	17	60
Total	8	7	2	29	72

Table 3: Number prosecuted, convicted, the number and percentage sentenced to immediate custody and the average sentence length (months) for buggery and unlawful carnal knowledge offences 2004[1,2,3,4]

	Prosecuted	Convicted	Number given immediate custody	Percentage given immediate custody	Average sentence length (Months)
Buggery	14	7	5	71	90
Unlawful carnal knowledge	7	6	3	50	20
Total	21	13	8	62	64

Table 4: Number prosecuted, convicted, the number and percentage sentenced to immediate custody and the average sentence length (months) for buggery and unlawful carnal knowledge offences 2005[1,2,3,4,6]

	Prosecuted	Convicted	Number given immediate custody	Percentage given immediate custody	Average sentence length (Months)
Buggery	5	1	1	100	96
Unlawful carnal knowledge	8	7	3	43	17
Total	13	8	4	50	37

[1] Buggery offences included here are 'buggery with boy under 17 years' and 'buggery with a girl under 17 years'.
[2] Unlawful carnal knowledge offences include 'unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 14' and 'unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under 17'.
[3] Data are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.
[4] Data represent the total number of convictions and prosecutions for offences in Northern Ireland courts. In 2003 and 2004, there were offenders with other UK addresses.
[5] Data in Table 1 are based on the police District Command Unit in which an offender's address falls. Data are only included for those District Command Units which have convictions and prosecutions in the calendar years 2003 to 2005.
[6] Data for 2005 are provisional.

Sexual Offences: Sentencing

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, whether he plans to introduce changes to the law on the sentencing of sex offenders in Northern Ireland. [132690]

Mr. Hanson: Later this year I intend to consult on a set of draft legislative proposals for a radical change to the structure of sentencing in Northern Ireland. These proposals include the introduction of indeterminate and extended public protection sentences that would in future put an end to automatic 50 per cent. remission for dangerous violent and sexual offenders. These sentences would mean that those committing the most serious offences could if necessary be detained indefinitely, while those committing other specified offences could be detained to the end of their prison sentence.

Separately I also intend to publish draft legislation to reform the law on sexual offences, with tough new penalties proposed for abusive sexual behaviour which violates the criminal code.

HOME DEPARTMENT

101 Programme

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed within the 101 programme; what the total cost is of their annual salaries; and what the annual cost is of the salary of the head of the programme. [130050]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 26 March 2007]*: There are currently eight (full-time equivalent) people employed within the 101 programme with an additional 6.5 (full-time equivalent) specialist consultants to provide specific telecommunications, information technology and business analysis expertise.

The total cost of the annual salaries for the eight employees for 2007-08 including all on costs (national insurance and pension contributions) is expected to be approximately £450,000. The total cost of the additional 6.5 specialist consultants including all fees is expected to be approximately £760,000.

It is not the policy of the Home Office to disclose the details of a specific individual's salary but the cost of the salary of the programme director for 2007-08 is 0.5 (full-time equivalent) of Home Office grade six pay band, which is currently expected to cost between £27,199 and £35,313 plus on costs (national insurance and pension contributions).

Autism

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the partnership between Dyfed Powys Police, North Wales Police and Autism Cymru to develop an assessment of the needs of people with autistic spectrum disorders; and what plans he has to introduce a similar scheme in England. [133387]

Mr. McNulty: A local assessment of the scheme has been carried out by North Wales Police in partnership with Autism Cymru. The findings have proved to be beneficial to both the Police and Communities in Wrexham and Flintshire. A report of the findings has now been received by the National Policing Improvement Agency, who will evaluate them with a view to sharing good practice with Police colleagues throughout the Police Service of England and Wales.

Burglaries: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded burglaries there were in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of those recorded

burglaries led to a conviction in each year, broken down by borough. [133509]

Mr. Coaker: The statistics are not available in the form requested. Recorded burglary statistics relate to offences and convictions data relates to offenders. In addition, recorded crime data are published on a financial year basis and conviction data are published on a calendar year basis. For these reasons, the two data sources are therefore not directly comparable.

Figures for the number of offences recorded and the number of convictions are provided in the tables. Recorded crime data at borough level are only available from 2000-01.

Table 1: Recorded offences of burglary by London borough, 2000-01 and 2001-02

Borough	2000-01	2001-02
Barking and Dagenham	1,970	2,220
Barnet	4,107	3,954
Bexley	2,583	2,394
Brent	4,441	4,099
Bromley	3,263	3,580
Camden	5,305	5,857
City of Westminster	5,403	5,646
Croydon	3,779	4,131
Ealing	4,637	4,533
Enfield	3,973	4,411
Greenwich	3,050	2,794
Hackney	4,298	4,287
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,076	2,789
Haringey	4,159	4,803
Harrow	2,791	2,623
Havering	2,356	2,567
Hillingdon	4,085	3,643
Hounslow	3,415	3,192
Islington	4,292	4,567
Kensington and Chelsea	3,555	2,826
Kingston upon Thames	1,349	1,180
Lambeth	6,150	6,974
Lewisham	3,287	3,490
Merton	1,792	1,967
Newham	3,460	3,886
Redbridge	2,798	2,899
Richmond upon Thames	2,384	2,174
Southwark	4,235	5,016
Sutton	1,471	1,820
Tower Hamlets	3,714	3,262
Waltham Forest	3,123	4,012
Wandsworth	4,023	4,352
Total	112,324	115,948

Table 2: Recorded offences of burglary by London Borough, 2002-03 to 2005-06

Borough	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Barking and Dagenham	2,012	2,240	2,175	1,921
Barnet	4,039	3,978	4,045	4,363
Bexley	2,341	2,226	1,986	2,366
Brent	3,859	4,062	3,987	3,904
Bromley	3,596	3,472	3,776	3,926
Camden	5,884	4,843	4,171	4,108
City of Westminster	5,264	4,296	4,497	4,158
Croydon	4,115	3,769	3,230	3,582
Ealing	4,543	4,375	4,350	4,999
Enfield	4,301	3,865	3,528	3,844
Greenwich	2,986	3,080	2,970	3,209
Hackney	4,807	4,327	3,897	3,547
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,089	2,827	3,023	3,052
Haringey	4,356	4,115	4,084	3,841
Harrow	2,736	2,626	2,178	2,446
Havering	2,386	2,161	2,315	2,453
Hillingdon	3,569	3,183	3,143	3,137
Hounslow	3,374	3,450	2,969	2,982
Islington	4,429	3,957	3,681	3,683
Kensington and Chelsea	2,512	2,576	2,580	2,444
Kingston upon Thames	985	939	984	1,188
Lambeth	5,694	4,980	4,150	3,884
Lewisham	3,708	3,837	3,778	3,524
Merton	1,930	2,034	1,764	1,796
Newham	3,494	3,398	3,410	4,112
Redbridge	2,974	2,990	3,058	3,282
Richmond upon Thames	2,120	1,787	2,017	2,395
Southwark	4,885	4,556	4,411	4,143
Sutton	1,446	1,397	1,429	1,480
Tower Hamlets	3,567	3,023	3,070	3,467
Waltham Forest	3,812	3,284	3,144	3,131
Wandsworth	4,547	3,664	3,616	3,108
Total	113,360	105,317	101,416	103,475

Note:
The National crime Recording standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures for earlier years are therefore not directly comparable.

Table 3: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of burglary, broken down by London court area, 1996 to 2005[1,2,3]

London Court Area	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
City of London										
Guildhall Justice Rooms	37	26	25	23	14	38	29	27	24	29
Inner London Courts										
Bow Street	98	80	66	68	56	64	87	82	67	59

Table 3: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of burglary, broken down by London court area, 1996 to 2005[1,2,3]

London Court Area	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	293	402	372	378	326	276	343	341	365	297
Greenwich and Woolwich	216	188	202	165	180	177	180	168	170	177
Highbury Corner	365	301	286	245	262	223	293	264	253	230
Horseferry Road	124	105	144	170	175	156	173	173	129	157
Marylebone	99	109	98	88	34	4	-	-	5	2
South Western	141	166	119	145	145	133	154	149	120	96
Thames	92	111	74	243	334	298	294	326	220	248
West London	76	183	131	155	204	193	191	202	191	205
Inner London Juvenile Courts	447	94	48	31	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total - Inner London	1,951	1,739	1,540	1,688	1,716	1,524	1,715	1,705	1,520	1,471
Outer London										
Barking and Dagenham	75	74	92	59	62	59	56	75	69	56
Barnet	84	107	99	56	88	77	107	97	89	84
Bexley	82	54	72	75	54	57	57	41	37	54
Brent	124	121	93	75	105	91	91	70	85	114
Bromley	93	77	81	59	62	71	62	76	107	91
Croydon	125	162	174	117	118	133	107	100	100	78
Ealing	132	94	101	84	92	88	113	113	98	123
Enfield	74	86	94	81	116	82	127	113	86	100
Haringey	104	125	98	87	111	99	83	110	100	107
Harrow	44	49	44	43	48	55	62	60	52	47
Havering	34	57	71	74	39	45	61	52	55	52
Hillingdon	58	78	78	72	89	87	91	69	77	57
Hounslow	86	84	116	119	109	95	92	48	87	82
Kingston upon Thames	52	49	42	48	37	38	42	47	43	49
Merton	73	82	65	68	52	54	51	68	59	76
Newham	116	134	145	103	83	65	113	116	106	141
Redbridge	90	58	60	69	56	66	55	52	92	72
Richmond upon Thames	75	47	43	63	56	53	71	46	63	63
Sutton	71	60	72	42	46	55	72	50	60	37
Waltham Forest	99	118	124	87	93	79	111	85	88	77
Total -Outer London	1,691	1,716	1,764	1,481	1,516	1,449	1,624	1,488	1,553	1,560
Total	3,679	3,481	3,329	3,192	3,246	3,011	3,368	3,220	3,097	3,060

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The above data comprises burglary in a dwelling, aggravated burglary in a dwelling, burglary other than in a dwelling and aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ref IOS 209-07

Community Support Officers

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the impact of community safety police teams. [132874]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office evaluation of the National Reassurance Policing Programme published in 2006 provides strong evidence that a neighbourhood policing approach—which uses locally-based neighbourhood policing teams to target local community safety priorities—can reduce crime and perceptions of antisocial behaviour, and improve public confidence in the police, feelings of safety, community engagement and police patrol visibility.

The Home Office is monitoring and evaluating the neighbourhood policing programme across England and Wales, rather than the performance of individual teams, through a strategic research programme, the results of which will be published in due course.

The Home Office also continues to assess police performance, including the impact of neighbourhood policing, through the Police Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF), while inspections by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary also provide a qualitative assessment of neighbourhood policing delivery.

Crime: Surveys

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department expects to reach a conclusion on the appropriateness of extending the British Crime Survey to include those who are aged

under 16 years old; and if he will make a statement. [133676]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 April 2007]*: Extending the British Crime Survey to include those aged under 16 years old was one of the recommendations of the independent review of crime statistics led by Professor Adrian Smith that reported in November 2006. Smith recommended the Home Office should draw on the advice of experts in making such changes and there should be careful piloting so that the effect of such a change could be properly assessed before the extension is incorporated into the main BCS sample. We intend to commission work in the near future from experts in sampling and conducting surveys to provide advice on how this work could be taken forward. We expect to reach a conclusion on this work in the autumn of 2007.

Criminal Justice Bill

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to be in a position to introduce to Parliament the Criminal Justice Bill announced in the Queen's Speech 2006. [133594]

John Reid: As my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons indicated in response to a question from the hon. Member for Somerton and Frome (Mr. Heath) at business questions on 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 442, the criminal justice Bill will be brought forward in due course.

Departments: Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on unpublished research in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* each of the previous five years. [129084]

John Reid: The information requested is not held centrally and could not be collected without incurring disproportionate cost.

Human Trafficking

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking has met in the last 12 months; and how often it plans to meet in the next 12 months. [132887]

Mr. Coaker: In the last 12 months the group has met four times and will continue to be arranged on a quarterly basis.

Identity Cards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he expects to submit a final cost estimate for the identity cards scheme to HM Treasury; [133293]

(2) when his Department first submitted a cost estimate of the identity cards scheme to HM Treasury; and what that cost estimate was. [133294]

Joan Ryan: My Department has and will continue to maintain close contact with HM Treasury in relation to the estimates of expenditure on the National Identity Scheme.

Initial cost estimates for a card scheme were published in July 2002 in the consultation paper "Entitlement Cards and Identity Fraud" (CM5557)

Revised cost estimates have been published from time-to-time, for example, when the Identity Cards Bill was introduced to Parliament. During the passage of that legislation, the Government agreed to lay a report before Parliament every six months, which sets out the estimated cost of the National Identity Scheme for the coming 10 years.

The National Identity Scheme is being built around plans first to issue biometric passports incorporating; fingerprints which many countries will be implementing in 2009; and second, to issue biometric visas and immigration documents to foreign nationals. The procurement projects will therefore in the main deliver generic facilities covering, for example, the recording and storage of biometric information for passport and immigration purposes as well as ID cards.

As with any major project or programme, cost estimates will continue to be revised as it reaches key stages in its development, such as commencing procurement, signing contracts with suppliers and the commencement of live operations.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks are carried out to assess the employability of non-EU citizens applying to enter the UK. [132004]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

There are a number of schemes under which non-EU nationals can apply to work in the UK. Details of these, including the requirements and evidence which should be submitted, can be found on the UKvisas website (www.ukvisas.gov.uk). Two of the largest schemes are Work Permits and the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP) and details of the requirements and processes of these are given.

Non-EU nationals can also be permitted to work if they enter the UK under a long-term category, such as husband/wife/partner, though there is no requirement for them to demonstrate their employability in order for entry clearance to be issued.

Work Permits

If a non-EU citizen is required to have a work permit to apply to enter the UK, their UK-based employer, as part of the work permit application process, is required to:

- demonstrate that the non-EU citizen has the skills, qualifications and experience to enable them to do the job on offer (except under the Sectors Based Scheme);
- inform the Border and Immigration Agency how they verified the non-EU citizen's qualifications and skills for most Business and Commercial and Training and Work Experience applications; and
- demonstrate that the non-EU citizen has appropriate registration with a UK professional organisation, for example, the Nursing and Midwifery Council or the General Medical Council, where that is required by legislation.

The employer is required to provide supporting documentation. The Border and Immigration Agency may request original documents where copies have been supplied and, if necessary, check their authenticity.

A work permit holder must apply for entry clearance before travelling to the UK. This will be granted provided the Entry Clearance Officer is satisfied that the applicant:

holds a valid work permit and is capable of undertaking the employment specified;

is not below the age of 13 years;

does not intend to take employment except as specified on the work permit;

intends to leave the UK on expiry of the work permit (where a work permit is due to expire within 12 months); and

is able to be maintained and accommodated (and any dependants) adequately without recourse to public funds.

HSMP

The HSMP is a points based immigration route. If a non-EU citizen wishes to enter the UK as a highly skilled migrant they must demonstrate their highly skilled status by scoring 75 points across the following areas:

qualifications held;

previous earnings;

age; and

UK experience.

Applicants must also demonstrate that they hold English language skills to the required level. Successful HSMP applicants do not require a prior offer of employment to enter the UK.

When considering HSMP applications, the Border and Immigration Agency requests original documents and, where necessary, checks their authenticity.

Intermittent Custody

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average travelling distance from home to intermittent custody centres is for women prisoners subject to *(a)* a weekday and *(b)* a weekend intermittent custody order, broken down by centre; [133274]

(2) how many and what percentage of *(a)* female and *(b)* male prisoners are subject to an intermittent custody order; [133275]

(3) how many and what percentage of intermittent custody orders have been made for *(a)* weekday and *(b)* weekend custody in each year since their introduction under the Criminal Justice Act 2003; [133276]

(4) how many intermittent custody centres there are in England and Wales; and how many places there are for *(a)* female and *(b)* male prisoners in each centre. [133277]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The two intermittent custody pilots at HMP Kirkham for male offenders and HMP Morton Hall for female offenders came to and end in November 2006. Each centre accommodated up to 39 offenders.

During the pilots we did not hold records on travelling distances for offenders to the IC centres. However, the IC evaluation found that the geographically larger female pilot catchment area meant that women spent longer travelling, usually by public transport, to the IC centre than men.

On 23 April 2007 there was one female prisoner currently recalled at Morton Hall serving an intermittent custody order. The total number of intermittent custody orders during the pilot was 456; of these, 384 offenders were subject to weekend custody, and 72 offenders were subject to weekday custody.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Police: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each London borough are on paid sick leave. [133493]

Mr. McNulty: Information on sick leave absences is collected annually and only at force level. In the Metropolitan Police Service for 2005-06 the average number of hours lost per annum was 54.3 hours per officer.

Police: Retirement

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average retirement age was of police officers in each of the last 15 years. [133394]

Mr. McNulty: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1091, which provides all the relevant information that is available.

Police: Schools

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many schools in England and Wales have an allocated police officer, broken down by local authority area. [133343]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office does not collect this information centrally.

Prisoners: Locks and Keys

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders in *(a)* Category C prisons, *(b)* Category D prisons and *(c)* youth offender institutions in England and Wales have access to the keys for their cells. [132242]

John Reid: No prisoners have cell keys in their possession. In 32 Category C prisons, six semi-open prisons and five closed young offender institutions (YOIs), cells are fitted with privacy locks which enable prisoners to open and close their cells only during periods when the cell locks have been unlocked by staff. Privacy locks do not enable prisoners to leave their cells unless unlocked by staff, nor do they enable them to prevent staff from entering. Open prisons and open YOIs do not normally have cell locks on individual cells.

Respect Task Force: Advertising

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Respect Task Force has spent on advertising since its establishment; and what the projected advertising budget is for each of the next two financial years. [133363]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: Since its establishment in September 2005, the Respect Task Force has spent £35,580.32 on advertising.

Currently, we have no committed expenditure on advertising over the next two years. Any further advertising that is commissioned will be dependent on budget allocations and communication plans which have yet to be settled in detail.

Special Constables

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007; *Official Report*, column 1651W, on special constables, for what reasons the recruitment figures are not published in the Police Service Strength Bulletin; and if he will publish such figures in future editions. [133366]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: The annual Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales" publish joiners and leavers data for special constables. The data for joiners take into consideration not only those individuals who are recruited to the force, but also those who transfer between forces and those who leave the force and subsequently rejoin at a later date. For this reason, data for joiners are considered a more accurate representation of changes in strength than recruits. Data are published in this way not only for special constables but also for police officers.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departments: Huddersfield

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people employed by his Department were working in Huddersfield in each of the last 10 years. [131583]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 bringing together the former Department of Social Security and Employment Service. Information on the number of people employed by the Department in Huddersfield at 31 March each year following its formation is in the following table. The figures are also included as at 28 February 2007, the latest available.

	Number of staff
31 March 2002	414
31 March 2003	421
31 March 2004	389
31 March 2005	355
31 March 2006	292
28 February 2007	277

Employment Schemes: Lone Parents

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measure are *(a)* in place and *(b)* planned to be introduced to help lone parents into employment. [131771]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The following measures are already in place to help eligible lone parents into employment, some of which are open to eligible people other than lone parents:

- New Deal for Lone Parents
- New Deal Plus for Lone Parents
- Work Focused Interviews
- Programme Centres
- Work Trials
- Childcare Subsidy
- Childcare Assist
- In-Work Credit
- In-Work Emergency Fund
- Adviser Discretion Fund
- Job Grant
- Mortgage Interest Run On
- Housing Benefit Run On
- Tax Credits

As we have announced, we also plan to introduce the following measures to help eligible lone parents into employment:

- From 30 April 2007: extension of six-monthly Work Focused Interviews for lone parents with a youngest child aged five to 13;
- From 30 April 2007: introduction in New Deal Plus for Lone Parent pilot areas of quarterly Work Focused Interviews for lone parents with a youngest child aged 11 to 13;
- From 1 July 2007: introduction of a higher In-Work Credit rate of 60 across London;
- From 1 July 2007: continuation of the In-Work Credit in pilot areas until June 2008;
- From 1 April 2008 to March 2011: expansion of the New Deal Plus for Lone Parent pilot areas to cover all London districts;
- From 28 April 2008: extension of six-monthly Work Focused Interviews for lone parents with a youngest child aged 0 to four.

Grandparents: Carers

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations his Department has received on the allowances for grandparents caring for their grandchildren; what level of benefits they receive; and if he will make a statement. [132787]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) receives numerous representations from hon. Members, organisations and members of the public about the benefits and services it provides. It is not possible to provide numbers below high-level subject matter on the number of such representations.

Grandparents who are responsible for children are able to claim the same benefits and increases as all other persons responsible for children; the exact amounts that they receive will depend upon the individual circumstances of each such case.

Income Support: Disqualification

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sanctions were imposed on lone parents claiming income support who had missed their first work focused interview in each quarter since 1997. [123579]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 26 February 2007]:* Work focused interviews were introduced nationally for some lone parents from April 2001. They were extended in stages to all lone parents making new or repeat claims to Income support, and from April 2004 to all lone parents with an existing claim to income support.

Lone parents making a new or repeat claim for income support are expected to attend a work focused interview before an income support payment is made, unless the interview is deferred or waived. Failure to attend this first interview would result in the claim being disallowed rather than a benefit sanction being imposed. Benefit sanctions are imposed on existing customers who fail to attend their first work focused interview.

Between April 2001 and March 2006, 1.76 million initial lone parent work focused interviews have been booked and, in the same period, 1.62 million initial interviews have been attended, with 39,920 sanctions applied for failure to attend an initial work focused interview.

The number of work focused interviews (WFIs) booked for lone parents in the year to March 2006 was around one and a half times the number booked two years earlier, and over two and a half times the number booked three years before. This has, inevitably, resulted in an increase in the number of sanctions imposed. However, at less than 5 per cent. of the number of interviews booked, this represents a very low proportion of the total.

Information on the number of benefit sanctions imposed on lone parents for failure to attend a first work focused interview, broken down by each quarter, is in the following table.

Lone parent benefit sanctions

Period	*Benefit sanctions applied*
April to June 2001	10
July to September 2001	270
October to December 2001	410
January to March 2002	390
April to June 2002	750
July to September 2002	710
October to December 2002	590
January to March 2003	1,130
April to June 2003	1,110
July to September 2003	1,600
October to December 2003	1,610
January to March 2004	1,710
April to June 2004	2,080
July to September 2004	2,870
October to December 2004	3,280
January to March 2005	3,590
April to June 2005	3,440
July to September 2005	3,850
October to December 2005	4,160
January to March 2006	6,340
Total	39,920

Notes:
1. Data refer to total number of sanctions imposed, not individuals sanctioned.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Latest available data are to March 2006.

Source:
DWP Disability and Work Division.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on income support for *(a)* lone parents whose youngest child was (i) under three, (ii) under five, (iii) under 11, (iv) under 14 and (v) under 16 and *(b)* all lone parents in (i) cash and (ii) real terms in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of GDP each figure represented; and what estimate he has made of the expenditure for each of the next 10 years. [126529]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following tables. Figures after 2007-08 are illustrative projections consistent with the 2006 'Long-term Public Finance Report'. They are based on current policy continuing and do not represent firm expenditure plans. They also do not take account of measures proposed in the current Welfare Reform Bill.

Income support lone-parent expenditure in Great Britain (cash terms)

£ million

	All lone parents on income support	*Children aged under 3*	*Children aged between 3 under 5*	*Children aged between 5 and under 11*	*Children aged between 11 and under 14*	*Children aged 14 and over*
1999-2000	3,963	1,257	690	1,372	432	211
2000-01	4,334	1,361	781	1,507	464	221
2001-02	4,520	1,426	813	1,565	489	227
2002-03	4,626	1,435	821	1,623	511	236
2003-04	4,854	1,538	845	1,681	541	250
2004-05	4,452	1,365	773	1,558	513	244
2005-06	3,776	1,055	652	1,371	465	233
2006-07	3,403	892	591	1,262	437	220

Income support lone-parent expenditure in Great Britain (cash terms)

£ million

	All lone parents on income support	Children aged under 3	Children aged between 3 and under 5	Children aged between 5 and under 11	Children aged between 11 and under 14	Children aged 14 and over
2007-08	2,819	739	490	1,046	362	182
2008-09	1,919	503	333	712	247	124
2009-10	1,876	492	326	696	241	121
2010-11	1,848	484	321	686	238	119
2011-12	1,905	499	331	707	245	123
2012-13	1,964	515	341	729	253	127
2013-14	2,008	526	349	745	258	130
2014-15	2,046	536	356	759	263	132
2015-16	2,092	548	363	776	269	135
2016-17	2,141	561	372	794	275	138
2017-18	2,191	574	381	813	282	142

Income support lone-parent expenditure in Great Britain (real terms, 2006-07 prices)

£ million

	All lone parents on income support	Children aged under 3	Children aged between 3 and under 5	Children aged between 5 and under 11	Children aged between 11 and under 14	Children aged 14 and over
1999-2000	4,695	1,490	817	1,626	512	250
2000-01	5,064	1,590	913	1,761	542	258
2001-02	5,159	1,627	928	1,787	558	259
2002-03	5,122	1,589	909	1,797	566	262
2003-04	5,219	1,653	908	1,807	582	269
2004-05	4,658	1,428	808	1,630	537	255
2005-06	3,877	1,083	670	1,407	477	239
2006-07	3,403	892	591	1,262	437	220
2007-08	2,745	719	477	1,018	353	177
2008-09	1,819	477	316	675	234	118
2009-10	1,732	454	301	643	223	112
2010-11	1,662	435	289	616	214	107
2011-12	1,666	437	289	618	214	108
2012-13	1,672	438	290	620	215	108
2013-14	1,662	436	289	617	214	107
2014-15	1,648	432	286	611	212	106
2015-16	1,639	430	285	608	211	106
2016-17	1,631	428	283	605	210	105
2017-18	1,624	426	282	603	209	105

Income support lone-parent expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product

Percentage

	All lone parents on income support	Children aged under 3	Children aged between 3and under 5	Children aged between 5 and under 11	Children aged between 11 and under 14	Children aged 14 and over
1999-2000	0.43	0.14	0.07	0.15	0.05	0.02
2000-01	0.45	0.14	0.08	0.16	0.05	0.02
2001-02	0.45	0.14	0.08	0.16	0.05	0.02
2002-03	0.43	0.13	0.08	0.15	0.05	0.02
2003-04	0.43	0.14	0.07	0.15	0.05	0.02
2004-05	0.37	0.11	0.07	0.13	0.04	0.02

Notes:

1. Figures up to 2007-08 are consistent with the historical out-turn and pre-Budget report forecast expenditure figures published on the Department for Work and Pensions website at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp.
2. Figures after 2007-08 are illustrative projections consistent with the 2006 Long-term Public Finance Report, and assume current policy continues throughout the projection period, including the migration of the dependant child element of income support for lone parents to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs as part of the wider child tax credits roll-out. They do not take account of policies proposed in the current Welfare Reform Bill.
3. Lone parents are defined as single claimants with dependants not receiving incapacity benefits. Expenditure refers to the total expenditure directed at working-age adults and any child dependants from income support for lone parents.
4. Expenditure has been apportioned among age groups using data on IS recipients from the 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. For all years beyond 2006-07, expenditure is apportioned using age group data for 2006-07.
5. Information prior to 1999-2000 has not been provided because the underlying data series begins in that financial year.
6. All figures relate to expenditure in Great Britain only, but GDP figures used are for the United Kingdom.

Industrial Injuries Scheme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the Exchequer in each year from 2008-09 to 2020-21 of ending industrial injuries benefit for new claims while continuing to pay outstanding claims; and if he will make a statement. [124758]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I have asked officials to carry out a review of the IIDB scheme to ensure that it meets the needs of our modern society and is compatible with the Government's broader welfare reform agenda. A consultation document was published on 29 January 2007. The consultation document sets out questions that we would like stakeholders' views on. The questions address the key issues to shape an occupational scheme for injuries and diseases caused through work that will best meet the needs of our society, beyond financial compensation alone, today and for the future.

The consultation document does not commit DWP to any particular line of action or programmed spend. We are seeking stakeholders' views before we decide on the nature of the reform.

Outline estimates were made at the beginning of 2006 for stopping new claims to industrial injuries disablement benefit/reduced earnings allowance. These estimates should be used only as a guideline or indication rather than a complete and accurate assessment.

The estimated savings from not allowing new industrial injuries disablement benefit/reduced earnings allowance claims from April 2008 are in the following tables.

Estimate of the potential savings to the Exchequer of ending industrial injuries benefit for new claims while continuing to pay outstanding claims

Year	*Savings in 2005-06 prices (£ million)*
2008-09	10
2009-10	20

Averaging period	*Annual average saving each year in 2005-06 prices (£ million)*
2010-11 to 2019-20	90

National Insurance: Greater London

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the latest performance statistics are for the processing of national insurance number applications at each of the London offices dealing with such applications. [131212]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 25 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question what the latest performance statistics are for the processing of National Insurance Number applications at each of the London offices dealing with such applications. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are currently four National Insurance Number processing sites in London—Tooting, Cityside, Camden, and Hounslow. There is also a satellite office at Harlesden. Cityside, our newest site, opened in November 2006. The centres in London deal with 36% of all applications nationally.

We aim to process applications for National Insurance Numbers as quickly and securely as possible. In order to manage performance we have set an internal target for our teams to clear 86% of applications within 30 days.

The current performance figures are shown in the table below.

	Proportion cleared within 30 days (Percentage)
Camden	83.50
Cityside	75.38
Harlesden	82.07
Hounslow	82.07
Tooting	91.07
London	83.34

Note:
The figures quoted are up to the end of February 2007.
I hope this is helpful.

New Deal

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost per person moving into unsubsidised employment was of each New Deal programme in each year since 1997-98. [118799]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

New Deal costs per person into unsubsidised employment

£

	New Deal for Young People	*New Deal 25 Plus*	*New Deal 50 Plus*	*New Deal for Lone Parents*	*New Deal for Disabled People*	*New Deal for Partners*
1997-98	7,742	—	—	—	—	—
1998-99	1,663	1,259	—	118	—	—
1999-00	2,240	2,316	—	285	—	—
2000-01	3,029	1,251	1,363	267	—	2,041
2001-02	2,822	4,006	2,415	152	1,990	3,030
2002-03	3,003	4,017	2,638	254	1,561	1,256
2003-04	3,449	4,510	1,780	260	1,485	1,494
2004-05	3,663	4,578	131	292	1,934	633
2005-06	2,852	4,197	53	367	1,557	467

Notes:
1. Employer subsidies are only paid through New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 plus. Costs for these programmes are calculated excluding employer subsidies and excluding those who have only gained subsidised employment through these New Deals.
2. Cost figures are calculated on latest confirmed spend figures to March 2006 and figures for people into unsubsidised employment through each New Deal to March 2006.
3. The New Deal 50 plus cost figures up to 2002-03 include the DWP-funded ND50 plus employment credit. In 2003-04 this was replaced by the 50 plus element of the working tax credit, which is the responsibility of HMRC, so New Deal 50 plus costs reduced very significantly between 2002-03 and 2003-04.
4. Following agreement with HM Treasury in 2002/03, ringfences for New Deal were removed from New Deal. Administrative costs are excluded as it is no longer possible to identify the costs of administering the costs of each New Deal separately from the costs of other labour market activities.
5. Cost data includes start-up costs.
6. Following changes to the New Deal 25 plus programme in April 2001 when a mandatory intensive activity period was introduced, programme costs rose significantly resulting in an increase in the costs of helping people into work through the programme.
7. The costs of helping someone into work through New Deal for Lone Parents are lower as support provided to participants is primarily Adviser support and administrative costs are excluded from cost calculations.
8. Costs for voluntary programmes are also lower than the mandatory New Deals as a higher proportion of participants on voluntary programmes will be job ready without additional intervention.
9. Programme start dates are: New Deal for Young People: January 1998; New Deal 25 plus: July 1998; New Deal for Lone Parents: October 1998; New Deal for Partners: April 1999; New Deal 50 plus: April 2000; New Deal for Disabled People: July 2001.
10. Although New Deal for Young People started in January 1998, it only operated in pilot locations between January-March 1998, rolling out nationally from April 1998.
11. Average cost figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

Source:
DWP Departmental Reports 2004-2006, Jobcentre Plus Accounts 2005-06.
DWP Information Directorate.

New Deal for Disabled People: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Copeland have participated in the new deal for disabled people since its launch. [133491]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information on the number of participants on new deal for disabled people is not available at constituency level.

Social Fund

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the latest performance statistics are for each office where Social Fund applications are processed. [130176]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 24 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the latest performance statistics are for each office where Social Fund applications are processed. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The time it takes to process Social Fund applications is measured by counting the average length of time taken to clear all claims processed within a set period (usually monthly). The measure is referred to as the Average Actual Clearance Time.

The clearance time for an individual application is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received to the date the decision is taken (on whether to make an award or a loan offer), plus, if a loan offer is made, the number of whole working days between receiving the applicant's reply to the offer and the recording of that reply. The minimum clearance time recorded for an individual application is one day, even if the application is cleared immediately.

Applications are made for five elements of the Social Fund: Community Care Grants, Crisis Loans, Budgeting Loans, Sure Start Maternity Grants and Funeral Payments.

The Average Actual Clearance Time service level expectations for each element are:

Community Care Grants—9 days.

Crisis Loans—2 days.

Budgeting Loans—6 days.

Sure Start Maternity Grants—5 days.

Funeral Payments—16 days.

However, applications for Crisis Loan living expenses must be cleared on the same day as the application is made.

The attached table shows the performance of each of the 42 operating units that are currently responsible for Social Fund applications. The data covers February 2007.

I hope this is helpful.

Average actual clearance time for February 2007

Social Fund operating unit	*Community Care Grants*	*Crisis Loans*	*Budgeting Loans*	*Sure Start Maternity Grants*	*Funeral Payments*
Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde	8.6	1.3	9.0	4.3	3.6
Bolton and Bury	3.2	1.2	1.5	1.6	7.3
Bradford	9.7	1.4	3.2	2.9	12.8
Bridgend, Rhondda, Cynon and Taff	4.4	1.1	1.7	6.0	13.3
Calderdale and Kirklees	10.1	1.3	3.4	7.8	17.4
Central London	3.5	1.7	3.3	3.7	16.5
Cheshire	5.0	1.1	2.0	4.3	11.7
City and East London	4.3	1.2	2.9	3.0	9.5
Cumbria	7.3	2.6	2.7	2.4	17.4
Dorset	4.3	1.1	4.5	3.2	14.3

Average actual clearance time for February 2007

Social Fund operating unit	*Community Care Grants*	*Crisis Loans*	*Budgeting Loans*	*Sure Start Maternity Grants*	*Funeral Payments*
Dudley and Sandwell	11.4	2.6	2.7	3.2	23.2
East Midlands North	6.4	1.2	8.1	9.0	14.9
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders	5.4	1.8	1.5	4.1	8.5
Essex	13.7	1.7	4.2	2.9	12.8
Greater Liverpool	6.4	1.3	1.9	2.2	11.9
Greater Manchester and Lanes	15.6	2.7	4.5	4.7	14.8
Highland, Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian	6.1	1.2	6.2	3.2	5.8
Lancashire West	5.6	1.3	2.9	2.8	14.4
Leeds	8.7	1.2	1.6	2.3	12.5
Llanelli Benefit Delivery Centre	6.0	1.5	1.9	2.9	10.7
London South	4.1	1.3	2.5	2.4	12.0
North East London	5.6	1.5	2.4	2.6	8.3
North London	6.6	1.9	3.0	2.9	7.3
Northumbria	3.1	1.1	1.8	2.2	6.4
Norwich Benefit Delivery Centre	18.2	1.7	4.1	6.6	12.0
Somerset	2.5	1.1	2.2	1.8	8.7
SE BOBS (Bucks, Oxfordshire, Berks and Surrey)	8.5	2.5	3.1	3.2	12.1
SE HIKYS (Hants, Kent and Sussex)	8.9	1.9	3.3	3.4	11.8
South East Midlands	12.8	2.2	8.8	6.5	22.6
South East Wales	10.5	1.3	3.0	6.4	15.0
South Tyne and Wear Valley	7.8	1.3	2.9	4.9	11.4
South West Central	7.4	1.4	1.6	1.6	8.0
Springburn Benefit Delivery Centre	7.6	1.2	3.4	2.6	8.4
Tees Valley	6.1	1.2	4.6	1.9	11.4
Wakefield	5.0	1.3	3.3	1.6	7.1
West London	4.4	1.3	2.5	2.3	6.4
West Midlands Social Fund	7.8	1.6	3.4	3.9	10.0
Wigan	3.8	1.2	1.6	1.4	7.9
Wiltshire	8.8	1.3	1.4	2.3	7.8
Wirral	7.0	1.1	2.3	3.1	9.5
Wolverhampton and Walsall	11.1	2.5	2.4	3.8	25.3
Yorkshire and the Humber Sheffield	5.7	1.4	2.1	3.3	11.6

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Social Security Benefits: Ethnic Groups

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Asian men were on benefits in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Luton over the last five years; and what proportion of (i) male and (ii) all benefit claimants this represents over the same period. [131976]

Mr. Plaskitt: A breakdown of benefit claimants by ethnicity is only available for jobseeker's allowance. The available information is in the tables.

Male Asian jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants in Luton and Great Britain as at August 2002

	Number of JSA claimants	*Percentage of male JSA claimants*	*Percentage of all JSA claimants*
Luton borough council			
All Asian or Asian British	630	24.1	17.8
Asian or Asian British: Indian	80	3.1	2.3
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	330	12.6	9.3
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	190	7.3	5.4
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	30	1.1	0.8

Male Asian jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claimants in Luton and Great Britain as at August 2002

	Number of JSA claimants	*Percentage of male JSA claimants*	*Percentage of all JSA claimants*
Great Britain			
All Asian or Asian British	37,330	5.5	4.1
Asian or Asian British: Indian	10,720	1.6	1.2
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	14,920	2.2	1.6
Asian or Asian British:	7,220	1.1	0.8
Luton Borough Council			
Bangladeshi			
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	4,470	0.7	0.5

Male Asian jobseeker's allowance claimants in Luton and Great Britain as at August 2003

	Number of JSA claimants	*Percentage of male JSA claimants*	*Percentage of all JSA claimants*
Luton borough council			
All Asian or Asian British	630	23.5	17.6

Male Asian jobseeker's allowance claimants in Luton and Great Britain as at August 2003

	Number of JSA claimants	Percentage of male JSA claimants	Percentage of all JSA claimants
Asian or Asian British: Indian	70	2.6	2.0
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	320	11.9	8.9
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	220	8.2	6.1
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	20	0.7	0.6
Great Britain			
All Asian or Asian British	37,240	5.8	4.2
Asian or Asian British: Indian	10,660	1.6	1.2
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	14,310	2.2	1.6
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	7,410	1.1	0.8
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	4,860	0.8	0.6

Male Asian jobseeker's allowance claimants in Luton and Great Britain as at August 2004

	Number of JSA claimants	Percentage of male JSA claimants	Percentage of all JSA claimants
Luton borough council			
All Asian or Asian British	520	22.0	16.0
Asian or Asian British: Indian	60	2.5	1.8
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	260	11.0	8.0
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	170	7.2	5.2
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	30	1.3	0.9
Great Britain			
All Asian or Asian British	32,550	5.6	4.1
Asian or Asian British: Indian	9,130	1.6	1.1
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	12,420	2.1	1.6
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	6,760	1.2	0.8
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	4,240	0.7	0.5

Male Asian jobseeker's allowance claimants in Luton and Great Britain as at August 2005

	Number of JSA claimants	Percentage of male JSA claimants	Percentage of all JSA claimants
Luton borough council			
All Asian or Asian British	420	15.8	11.5
Asian or Asian British: Indian	70	2.6	1.9
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	290	10.9	7.9
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	20	0.8	0.5
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	40	1.5	1.1

Male Asian jobseeker's allowance claimants in Luton and Great Britain as at August 2005

	Number of JSA claimants	Percentage of male JSA claimants	Percentage of all JSA claimants
Great Britain			
All Asian or Asian British	34,920	5.6	4.1
Asian or Asian British: Indian	10,180	1.6	1.2
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	13,320	2.1	1.6
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	6,810	1.1	0.8
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	4,610	0.7	0.5

Male Asian jobseeker's allowance claimants in Luton and Great Britain as at August 2006

	Number of JSA claimants	Percentage of male JSA claimants	Percentage of all JSA claimants
Luton borough council			
All Asian or Asian British	680	22.3	16.0
Asian or Asian British: Indian	80	2.6	1.9
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	330	10.8	7.7
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	220	7.2	5.2
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	50	1.6	1.2
Great Britain			
All Asian or Asian British	38,920	5.8	4.2
Asian or Asian British: Indian	10,810	1.6	1.2
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	15,040	2.2	1.6
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	7,940	1.2	0.9
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian	5,130	0.8	0.6

Notes:
1. Caseload figures have been rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Percentage caseload figures are based on ethnicity group figures as a percentage of the total JSA caseload for Luton or GB and are rounded to one decimal point.

Source:
100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether lie detector test pilot schemes for benefit claimants will analyse the psychological impact of undertaking a lie detector test on claimants who are not committing fraud. [132223]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department intends to test voice risk analysis software as part of wider efforts to improve customer service and reduce fraud. It is not a lie detector. Applications of voice risk analysis technology have been reported to help identify and reduce risk of fraudulent claims in other sectors. The Department will be considering the impact of this technology on its business and customers to ensure legitimate benefit claims are paid quickly and accurately.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 816W, on social security benefits: lone parents, how many lone parents there were in the United Kingdom in each year since 1992; and what proportion of them had been in receipt of out-of-work benefits in each quarter since 1995. [130374]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 28 March 2007]:* The available information is in the following table.

Number of lone parents in Great Britain in spring each year and the proportion of lone parents in receipt of out-of-work benefits in Great Britain as at May each year, 1992 to 2006

	Population	Percentage
1992	1,199,000	n/a
1993	1,253,000	n/a
1994	1,369,000	n/a
1995	1,480,000	75.5
1996	1,560,000	72.5
1997	1,535,000	72.3
1998	1,639,000	64.7
1999	1,664,000	62.7
2000	1,627,000	62.8
2001	1,670,000	60.2
2002	1,732,000	56.5
2003	1,736,000	56.3
2004	1,789,000	54.3
2005	1,791,000	53.1
2006	1,779,000	53.2

n/a = Not available.

Note:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. "Out-of-work benefits" includes Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, and Severe Disablement Allowance.
3. The Spring Labour Force Survey figures cover the months March to May and have therefore been used as the denominator in these calculations while the May quarter for administrative data has been used as the numerator. Figures produced in this way give a general guide only and should be used cautiously.

Source:

5 per cent DWP administrative data and Labour Force Survey, spring quarters.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Government spent to provide free television licences to pensioners in each year since 1997. [132910]

James Purnell: The information requested is in the following table.

Years (outturn)	Cash terms (£ million)
2000-01	306
2001-02	365
2002-03	374
2003-04	412
2004-05	435
2005-06	461
2006-07[1]	483

[1] Estimated outturn

Notes:

1. Free TV licences were introduced in year 2000 to people over 75 years of age.
2. Figures are for UK and they are rounded to the nearest £ million.

Source:

DWP Expenditure tables consistent with Budget 2007

Winter Fuel Payments: Expenditure

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Government has spent to provide winter fuel allowances to pensioners in each year since 1997. [132911]

James Purnell: The information requested is in the following table.

Total cost of winter fuel payments paid out in Great Britain

Years (outturn)	Cash terms (£ million)
1997-98	191
1998-99	194
1999-2000	759
2000-01	1,749
2001-02	1,681
2002-03	1,705
2003-04	1,916
2004-05	1,962
2005-06	1,982
2006-07[1]	2,011

[1] Estimated outturn

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £ million.
2. Winter fuel payment was introduced in 1997.
3. Payments made to people aged 60-64 years and over 80 payment are included from 2000-01 onwards. Following a European Court of Justice Judgement in 1999, winter fuel payments were extended to people aged 60 or over regardless of whether they were receiving a social security benefit. A claims process was set up in the year 2000 to enable payments to be made to those people who could not be identified through the Department's records.

Source:

DWP Expenditure tables consistent with Budget 2007

TREASURY

Departmental Expenditure Limits: Department of Health

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he increased the Department of Health's planned resource departmental expenditure limit for 2005-06 from £75,090 million, as stated in public expenditure statistical analyses 2005, to £76,365 million, as stated in the Treasury's Public Expenditure Outturn White Paper for 2005-06; and how this increase was divided between near-cash and non-cash. [127835]

Mr. Timms: Planned expenditure figures changed for a number of routine and technical reasons and because of the reprofiling of the Department of Health's budget. The main reason for the change in planned resource DEL expenditure in 2005-06, which increased the near-cash element of resource DEL, was a

classification adjustment to the Department of Health's resource DEL to cover payments to NHS Trusts to meet their depreciation costs, as set out in Budget 2006. Chapter 2 of the public expenditure analyses 2006 compares the latest plans for DEL and AME with the plans set out in the previous year.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 721W, on departmental staff, whether individual teams in his Department keep records of the number of away days; and if he will estimate the cost of obtaining away days for one team. [109192]

John Healey: Individual teams do not maintain records of the number of away days and no such cost estimate has been prepared.

Departments: Public Opinion

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* opinion polls and *(b)* focus groups in each of the last five years. [133023]

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many opinion polls of the public his Department has commissioned since July 2006; and what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* cost was of each. [133440]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2230W to the hon. Member for South-West Hertfordshire (Mr. Gauke).

EU Budget

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much expenditure was categorised under the European Union budget line of sundry debtors in the 2006-07 financial year; and if he will make a statement. [133074]

Ed Balls: 'Sundry debtors', covering receivables arising from the activities of the European Communities, including unpaid fines, cash advances and amounts paid to financial intermediaries, appears as an item under short-term assets in the balance sheet provided for the 'Final Annual Accounts of the European Communities 2004'. This amounted to €4,140 million at 31 December 2004.

Following a modernisation of the accounts of the European Communities in 2005 and the change to an accruals accounting system, an asset entitled pre-financing is now recognised on the balance sheet and represents the advances paid to beneficiaries. In 2005, the latest year for which European Communities accounts are available, the amount of short-term pre-financing is given as €6,633 million as at 31 December (with a restated figure of €6,728 million as at 31 December 2004).

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 474W, on energy: conservation, what proportion of the funding announced by his Department on 22nd March 2006 *(a)* has been spent and *(b)* relates to improved (i) energy efficiency in the public sector and (ii) increased access to the arts and culture; and what estimate he has made of energy efficiencies gained. [131353]

Mr. Timms: Priority areas for round 8 of the invest to save budget commencing in 2006-7 included improved energy efficiency in the public sector and third sector bodies; and efficiency and increased access to the arts and culture sector. ISB funding is awarded for up to three years. On conclusion, all projects submit an evaluation of their project against its stated objectives. Data on the energy efficiencies gained have therefore not yet been collected.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the merits of hypothecating vehicle excise duty revenue for funding policies to address climate change and other forms of environmental damage. [132952]

John Healey: The Government's spending priorities are not in general determined by the way in which the money is raised. Revenue from the taxation of vehicles contributes—with other taxes and income—to the overall amount available to Government to spend, including on our transport and environmental protection priorities.

The Government's principled approach to the use of taxation as an instrument of environmental policy is set out in paragraphs 7.3-7.5 of the Chancellor's 2007 Budget report.

Migrant Workers: Eastern Europe

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the impact of workers from Eastern Europe on the UK economy. [132739]

John Healey: The latest official statistics (October to December 2006) show workers from the new EU member states in Eastern Europe made up 1.2 per cent. of UK employment, and contributed around 0.8 per cent. of the economy.

Stamp Duties

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the reduction in revenue from applying higher rate stamp duty (3 per cent. to 4 per cent.) only to the amount from a property sale above the relevant threshold for that rate in a full tax year. [132813]

Ed Balls: If all commercial and residential property sales above £250,000 were taxed where 1 per cent. was applied on the whole of the first £250,000, 3 per cent.

on the excess consideration above £250,000 up to £500,000, and 4 per cent. on the excess consideration above £500,000, the reduction in revenue from stamp duty land tax is estimated at about £1.9 billion for the current financial year.

Taxation: Arrests

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions in 2005-06 HM Revenue and Customs requested that the police use their power of arrest as a result of a tax inquiry. [133739]

John Healey: HMRC does not hold a record of the number of requests made to the police to make arrests in 2005-06. However, on the basis of the information held, the Department estimates that around 150 arrests were made by police on its behalf during this year.

Taxation: Electric Vehicles

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax is paid on the purchase of a new *(a)* Toyota Prius and *(b)* Honda Accord hybrid car. [132819]

John Healey: These cars are subject to annual Vehicle Excise Duty under the carbon dioxide emissions graduated class for cars registered from 1 March 2001 onwards. Honda's Civic Hybrid has a certified CO_2 emissions figure of 109 g of CO_2 per kilometre and Toyota's Prius Hybrid has a certified CO_2 emissions figure of 104 g of CO_2 per kilometre.

These vehicles are therefore subject to band B CO_2 emissions graduated vehicle excise duty. In Budget 2007 the Chancellor built on Budget 2006 changes by further reducing this rate to £35 and freezing it until 2010-11. By announcing rates for future years the Government are providing future certainty and further sharpening the environmental signal to motorists to purchase more fuel efficient vehicles.

Cars purchased for private and business use are subject to VAT in the normal way. Under certain conditions cars that have been adapted for the carriage of a disabled person will be zero-rated. Charities and certain other eligible bodies (listed in HMRC Reference Notice 701/59 of March 2002) may also be able to purchase adapted vehicles free of VAT.

Welfare Tax Credits: Cardiff

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether staff working for the tax credit office in the Cardiff contact centre have guidelines for the number of calls they should deal with from customers each day; and if he will make a statement; [133027]

(2) how long staff answering customer calls at the tax credit office in Cardiff are recommended to spend on each call; and if he will make a statement. [133028]

Mr. Timms: The Contact Centre at Cardiff does not currently handle tax credit calls.

Loans: Students

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to ensure that the best possible price is achieved from the planned sale of tranches of the student loan book. [133710]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

We are at the early stages of implementing the Budget announcement to sell income-contingent student loans. Further details about the sale will be announced in due course. We are confident that the Government will obtain good value for money, as they are obliged to do by rules of Government accounting.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much was spent on hospitality by her Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133251]

Vera Baird: The amount of hospitality expenditure incurred by the Department, which covers costs for Her Majesty's Courts Service, Tribunals Service, Public Guardianship Office and DCA headquarters, for 2006-07 is provisionally £43,804. This amount is subject to audit and the final amount will be included in the Department's annual resource accounts.

All hospitality expenditure incurred by the Department is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety that is based on principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Rain Forests

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide a breakdown by major heading of how the recently announced £50 million to help conserve the Congo basin rainforest will be spent, including details of all funding recipients. [133499]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is committing £50 million to support proposals that have been made by 10 central African countries, to help them protect the Congo basin's forests and people. This will establish a fund that will slow the rate of deforestation by developing the capacity of people and institutions in the Congo basin countries to manage their forests and help local communities find livelihoods that are consistent with the conservation of forests.

The details of the new fund are still being developed—including how the work will be implemented. The fund will have a clear governance framework designed to ensure that it has strong African ownership and supports

the needs of the Congo basin's countries, protects the livelihoods and rights of forest people and is spent effectively, with good financial management.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on hospitality by his Department in the financial year 2006-07 [133259]

Mr. Thomas: The total for entertainment within administration costs budgets for 2006-07 was £238,000.

This figure for entertainment includes working breakfasts and lunches, refreshments at meetings and official entertainment.

All entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting.

Departments: Oral Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to his Department for oral answer have been transferred to other departments since May 2005. [133801]

Mr. Thomas: None.

Developing Countries: AIDS

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the progress made by developing countries in delivering universal access to treatment for AIDS sufferers by 2010; and what support his Department has given to this policy. [132990]

Mr. Thomas: The World Health Organisation, UNAIDS and UNICEF published a new report last week—"Towards Universal Access: scaling up priority HIV/AIDS interventions in the health sector". The report shows that countries in every region of the world are making substantial progress in increasing access to HIV treatment. More than 1.3 million people in sub-Saharan Africa were receiving treatment in December 2006, representing coverage of approximately 28 per cent. of those in need compared to just 2 per cent. in 2003. Coverage in other regions varied, from 6 per cent. in North Africa and the Middle East, to 15 per cent. in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and 72 per cent. in Latin America and the Caribbean. Overall, while encouraging trends continue, just 28 per cent. of the estimated 7.1 million people in need of treatment in all low and middle income countries were receiving it in December 2006.

Substantial challenges remain, which is why DFID continues to work with Governments and the international community to help deliver a comprehensive response. DFID is committed to spending at least £1.5 billion on tackling the HIV and AIDS epidemics. In 2005-06 DFID spent £385 million tackling HIV and AIDS, an increase of nearly 30 per cent. on the 2004-05 figure of £298 million. The UK has committed £300 million to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria from 2002-08 including, £100 million for 2006 and the same for 2007 subject to performance. To date, Global Fund-financed programmes have provided treatment to over 600,000 people with AIDS. DFID is also committed to improving access to medicines and announced support of €20 million for UNITAID, the new drugs purchase facility established in September 2006, as part of a 20 year commitment, increasing to €60 million per year by 2010 subject to performance. Following its first two board meetings in October and November 2006 UNITAID has already approved several significant items of expenditure, including $61.7 million for paediatric anti-retroviral therapy (ART), $70 million for second line ART and $52.5 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Developing Countries: Cleft Palate

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent providing support to organisations that treat children in developing countries with cleft lip and palate in each of the last five years. [133508]

Mr. Thomas: The level of detail available on our central systems does not allow us to systematically capture the amount of expenditure channelled through organisations which treat cleft lip and palate. DFID provides direct funding to support general health services in many countries, and those health services provide a range of surgical interventions.

Developing Countries: Debts

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what targets his Department has to reduce debt in developing countries over the next two years. [132864]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's 2005-08 public service agreement (PSA) includes a target shared with Her Majesty's (HM) Treasury, that 90 per cent. of heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs) that have reached Decision Point by end 2005 should receive irrevocable debt relief by end 2008. By the end of 2005, 28 HIPCs had reached HIPC Decision Point (thereby demonstrating their commitment to poverty reduction and qualifying for interim debt relief). Of these 28 countries, 22 have now completed the HIPC initiative and received irrevocable debt cancellation. The PSA target requires that four more countries complete HIPC before the end of 2008. Current indications are that this target will be met.

The public service agreement framework will change for the period 2008 to 2011. New departmental strategic objectives are under discussion.

In addition to our existing PSA target, DFID and HM Treasury work closely to deliver the UK Government's commitments on debt relief. We remain committed to the full implementation and financing of the HIPCs and multilateral debt relief initiatives (MDRI). We exceed our commitments under HIPC, cancelling 100 per cent. of bilateral debts for qualifying countries. We are also the second largest bilateral donor to the HIPC Trust Fund which helps multilateral organisations deliver HIPC debt relief in a timely manner. We continue to pay our share of the costs of the MDRI at the World Bank,

IMF and African Development Bank. We also support debt reduction facility operations managed by the World Bank which allow poor countries to buy back their commercial debts at a considerable discount (generally over 90 per cent.).

The UK remains committed to 100 per cent. bilateral and multilateral debt relief for poor countries that will use the savings for poverty reduction. We have cancelled bilateral aid debts from low income countries (except Zimbabwe and Burma, neither of which are making payments) and qualifying lower middle income countries. We also pay our share (10 per cent.) of debt service to the World Bank and African Development Fund for eight low income countries that are not eligible for assistance under HIPC. We hope that other countries will soon also reach the standards of public financial management and commitment to poverty reduction necessary to receive this support.

Avoiding the re-accumulation of unsustainable debts is crucial. The UK supports debt management capacity building for countries. We are also working with the international community (including the international financial institutions, export credit agencies and emerging lenders) to ensure responsible new lending to poor countries. We support the World Bank and IMF's debt sustainability framework (DSF), and promote its use wherever possible. The DSF identifies countries that might struggle to repay loans, and these are offered grants, or a mixture of grants and loans, by the World Bank and African Development Bank.

Developing Countries: Forestry

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the extent of economic, social and environmental benefits of the traditional concession-based industrial logging model in developing countries. [133500]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has recently completed a study on 20 years of UK support to Ghana's forest sector. This study documents the lessons gained from experience in a single sector and how they can be applied more generally. It also assesses the social and economic aspects of Ghana's industrial forest development, and identifies rights-based approaches to making forestry work for poor people.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, DFID is funding the Roundtable Review, a study looking at alternative forest uses and innovative finance mechanisms for conservation and sustainable forest management (DRC). This study will look at the current benefits of logging in the DRC and seek alternative models that are more responsive to the needs of local people and the global environment.

DFID is funding the Rights and Resources Initiative along with other donors, research institutes and conservation organisations. This initiative focuses on pro-poor forest policy and tenure reform, including ways of increasing local ownership and access to forest resources. The Rights and Resources Initiative has produced a number of studies that assess the social and economic benefits of concession-based forest industry. More information about this initiative can be found at: www.rightsandresources.org.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress is being made by the G8 in delivering universal access to HIV prevention treatment and care by 2010. [132872]

Mr. Thomas: The UK made AIDS a centrepiece of the 2005 G8 and EU presidencies. We pressed for and secured international commitments to universal access to HIV treatment. We subsequently worked hard to ensure that this commitment was endorsed and expanded by the international community in the Political Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS (2 June 2006). This Declaration committed to achieve comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010. It also agreed that countries would develop ambitious targets, including interim targets for 2008, to measure progress towards universal access. Crucially, it also set out a process by which countries will develop national AIDS plans to scale up towards universal access by 2010; and made the commitment that no credible, costed, national AIDS plan should go unfunded.

By early 2007, 90 countries had developed targets for achieving universal access, and at least 23 countries had proceeded with costing their strategic plans. The UK is pressing UNAIDS to define what constitutes a credible national AIDS plan. We are also pressing for a multi-stakeholder process in country to review universal access plans as they are developed, to agree their credibility and ensure they are fully funded.

We will push hard to ensure an ongoing focus by the G8 on achieving its commitment to universal access. We see our work with UNAIDS as central to unlocking the G8 and international community's commitment to funding credible, costed national AIDS plans. We will ensure that this work is discussed as we prepare for the G8 Heiligendamm summit in June.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress was made at the G8 meeting of Development Ministers on 26 and 27 March in Berlin on establishing a funding plan for the delivery of universal access to HIV prevention treatment and care; and if he will make a statement. [132873]

Mr. Thomas: At the Berlin meeting G8 Development Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to get as close as possible to universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care by 2010. They acknowledged that the price of some drugs remains prohibitive for many countries, and more needs to be done to help lower their cost including the use of TRIPS flexibilities to the fullest extent.

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Environmental Transformation Fund

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) if he will publish a detailed breakdown of the expenditure of the Environmental Transformation Fund; [133496]

(2) what measures his Department has in place to assess the effectiveness of the Environmental Transformation Fund; [133497]

(3) what measures his Department has in place to ensure the transparency and accountability of the Environmental Transformation Fund; and if he will make a statement. [133498]

Mr. Thomas: Expenditure from the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) will cover the three years of the comprehensive spending review period from April 2008. Apart from £50 million earmarked for the Congo basin, which was announced in the Budget, detailed breakdown of allocations have not yet been decided. It is expected that the allocation will be used to fund multilateral activities, such as the World Bank and Regional Development Banks' clean energy investment framework and other initiatives, as well as bilateral projects with countries. It will also be used for purposes such as adaptation, promotion of clean energy and tackling unsustainable deforestation.

Officials from DFID and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) are in discussions over appropriate governance arrangements for the ETF. These arrangements will include measures to assess effectiveness and ensure transparency and accountability.

Latin America: Overseas Aid

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Global Conflict Prevention Pool in Latin America. [132433]

Mr. Thomas: The Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) Latin America Strategy was established in late 2004 and a detailed evaluation will be undertaken later this year or early next year. A GCPP steering team consisting of officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Ministry of Defence (MOD) and DFID hold regular meetings to monitor progress of the Strategy and decide changes with input from a Regional Conflict Adviser (RCA) who is based in Venezuela. Country analyses are regularly provided to the GCPP steering team by the RCA.

At project level, activities are monitored and evaluated by the RCA on a regular basis. Projects are designed to address individual needs in specific circumstances and therefore vary widely in scope and scale. Monitoring and evaluation is built in, and is undertaken against the objectives and projected outcomes. The positive impact of GCPP supported projects is being seen through these evaluations.

The Latin America conflict prevention strategy has at its heart the objective of resolving existing conflicts and preventing new conflicts from breaking out. In delivering this objective, evaluation shows that this has been successful. For example, working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) a successful border management model has been developed around Colombia's borders to assure refugees' rights and to resolve and manage conflicts. In Colombia, GCPP support has contributed to the visible presence of community defenders in remote and vulnerable communities who have helped to reduce the risk of internal displacement of people by providing increased access to legal services.

Overseas Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what evaluations his Department has made of the effectiveness of technical assistance. [133494]

Mr. Thomas: In 2006 we published an independent evaluation of DFID-funded technical co-operation (technical assistance) for economic management in Sub-Saharan Africa. The study evaluated the technical assistance provided to the Governments of Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia over the period 1999-2004. We are currently considering further evaluation work on technical co-operation jointly with other donors.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to include significant participation from Southern country recipients in its forthcoming review of its technical assistance programmes. [133501]

Mr. Thomas: Technical cooperation or technical assistance is the provision of know-how to developing countries in the form of personnel, training, research and associated costs. DFID spends approximately 10 per cent. of bilateral official development assistance on technical cooperation. In 2008, DFID will review its provision of technical cooperation personnel, i.e. contracted specialists who share know-how and expertise with developing countries. The review will assess DFID's progress in implementing guidance for country offices written in June 2006.

DFID's long-term vision for technical assistance is that our partners in developing countries should lead in identifying needs for technical assistance, designing terms of reference, and contracting and managing consultants. DFID considers it important that Southern partners and recipients of technical assistance play a significant role in the review.

We are still at the early stages of planning the review so no decisions have yet been made. We are considering the following ideas to ensure Southern partners participate fully in the review:

the reviewers make some country visits to interview partner governments and recipients of technical assistance

a small reference group of representatives of partner governments and recipients of technical assistance advise on the review

one of the criteria for selecting consultants to carry out the review is that Southern-based consultants play a significant role.

DFID has agreed that the terms of reference for the review will be developed jointly with the UK Aid Network, a network of UK development NGOs including ActionAid, Christian Aid, Oxfam and WaterAid. We hope they will also contribute ideas on this.

While Southern partners' contributions are critical for the DFID review, internationally agreed aid effectiveness principles indicate donors should not make excessive demands on Southern partners' time. This is particularly so for individual donor initiatives. We need to use our partners' time wisely when inviting them to work on the DFID review.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the bilateral aid budget was spent on technical assistance in each year since 2001. [133502]

Mr. Thomas: The proportion of the bilateral official development assistance (ODA) spent on technical co-operation is set out in the following table.

	Technical co-operation as a percentage of Bilateral ODA
2001	29.5
2002	25.0
2003	25.7
2004	14.1
2005	10.3
2006 (provisional)	10.8

Technical co-operation

Technical co-operation is the provision of know-how in the form of personnel, training, research and associated costs. It covers primarily:

Consultancies: the provision of assistance to recipient countries in the form of contracted specialists.

Knowledge and Research: grants for agreed programmes of research and development at UK and non-UK institutions which will be of benefit to assisted countries.

Training and Scholarships: the provision of assistance in the form of training for persons from aid recipient countries. The training may be provided in the UK, in the home country of the student, or in a third country. Training provided under the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, the Shared Scholarship scheme and Training through Country programmes is managed directly by, or on behalf of, DFID. Increasingly training is also being provided by means of short in-country courses as part of, or in association with, country projects. This is not fully captured at present in the statistics on training. The costs of these activities are included within projects and programmes.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of technical assistance contracts were awarded to *(a)* UK firms, *(b)* Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development firms and *(c)* developing country firms in each of the last five years. [133503]

Mr. Thomas: Information on the percentage of Technical Assistance contacts which have been awarded in the above categories is not held centrally and to obtain these would incur disproportionate costs.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what guidelines exist on the process of bidding for technical assistance contracts; and what steps the Government is taking to ensure that the technical assistance procurement market is an open market. [133505]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is committed to transparent, fair and open competition. All contracts above £93,738 are tendered through international competition in accordance with the EU Public Procurement directives and the code of good practice issued by the Office of Government Commerce. Full information on the bidding process is available on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/procurement

DFID's global business attracts interest from a wide range of experts, companies and institutions. In 2005-06 our headquarters engaged 338 different suppliers to provide goods and services to DFID and our development partners.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what international development assistance has been given by the Government to *(a)* Helmand Province and *(b)* the Government of Afghanistan's National Drugs Control strategy. [133397]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development has allocated up to £30 million over three years to the Government of Afghanistan to support its Helmand Agricultural and Rural Development programme (HARDP). This programme is designed to extend the Government's National Priority programmes to Helmand, and will fund projects in the road-building, community development, micro-credit, water/sanitation and agriculture sectors. Since the programme started in January, over 1000 wells have been surveyed and designed. Of these, 120 wells have been completed, benefiting around 21,000 people and work is continuing on a further 30. A second batch of 150 wells will begin construction shortly. Construction has also started on four roads, totalling 51 km. These roads should be completed by May, security permitting. In 2006-07, the UK Government also committed £6.2 million to fund 128 quick impact projects. These have included improvements in flood defences; humanitarian assistance to drought victims and those who have had to flee their homes; refurbishment of 30 tractors and ploughs; permanent vehicle checkpoints to improve security; and improvements to two local markets.

The UK has committed £270 million to support counter narcotics activity in Afghanistan, including support for the National Drugs Control strategy. This

includes £30 million for the Counter Narcotics Trust Fund, which was set up specifically to support the National Drugs Control strategy. The fund will bring counter narcotics funding on budget; give the Afghans greater ownership over this important agenda; and ensure that assistance is targeted as effectively as possible. In 2006-07, the Department for International Development also spent £33.7 million on programmes to strengthen and diversify legal rural livelihoods.

Colombia

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Colombian Government on the fulfilment of the Colombian Supreme Court decision of May 2002 on the reconstruction of the village of Tabaco. [133532]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 24 April 2007]*: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials met with members of the Tabaco community in London on 30 January. Their concerns included claims of being forcibly displaced, lack of compensation and damage to the environment regarding the Cerrejon Mine. Since then we have made inquiries with Cerrejon both in London and Colombia.

Our embassy in Bogota has raised the communities' concerns with the office of the Vice President of the Government of Colombia. We will continue to raise with the Government of Colombia the importance we attach to adherence to socially responsible business practices by extractive companies around the world.

Colombia: Mining

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason British embassy officials in Bogota will not meet representatives of communities forcibly displaced by coal mining expansion in the province of la Guajira. [133469]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 24 April 2007]*: Our embassy in Bogota, when responding to the meeting request my hon. Friend refers to, explained to the community representatives that it would be more helpful to await the Colombian Government's response before meeting with them. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials subsequently met representatives of communities from the la Guajira province on 30 January in London. They raised the issue of forced displacement. Since then we have made enquiries with Cerrejon in London and Colombia. Our embassy in Bogota has raised the issue with the Government of Colombia Vice President's Office.

Entry Clearances: Fraud

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will estimate the number of fraudulent applications for visas in each of the last four years; and if she will make a statement. [132088]

Mr. McCartney: At present statistics are not available on refusals of visa applications made on the grounds of fraud. Individual visa issuing posts may keep such records but it would incur disproportionate cost to contact each post requesting these details.

Gibraltar: Children

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the outstanding issues are between the British and Spanish Governments over the operation in Gibraltar of the 1996 Hague Convention on the international protection of children; and when she expects them to be resolved to the extent necessary to enable the Convention to be ratified by the EU. [133868]

Mr. Hoon: The outstanding issue blocking the ratification of the Hague Convention, and other mixed competence conventions, by the EU concerns the arrangements for communicating with competent authorities in Gibraltar which Spain has questioned.

Negotiations remain at an advanced stage and we continue to work closely with Spain to find a solution acceptable to all parties.

Given the nature of these negotiations, it is difficult to estimate a precise time-scale for their conclusion. I have agreed to notify Parliament when we are in a position to announce progress that will enable the ratification of the Convention.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the statement of 24 March 2007 by the Foreign Ministers of China, France, Germany, Russia, the UK and the US, with support of the High Representative of the European Union, whether additional talks between the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Iranian nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani to discuss the Iranian nuclear programme have taken place. [132708]

Margaret Beckett: Dr. Javier Solana has spoken to Dr. Ali Larijani on a number of occasions to discuss the Iranian nuclear programme and we understand that they are due to meet in the week commencing 23 April. We hope that this channel of communication will remain open.

Iraq: Casualties

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British civilians have died in Iraq in violent circumstances since the beginning of March 2003. [132397]

Dr. Howells: Our consular records show that at least 59 British civilians have died in Iraq since March 2003. This number includes deaths from natural causes, but is not a definitive figure as records include only those cases where consular assistance has been sought. The figure does not include British dual nationals or unrepresented foreign nationals.

Iraq: Conferences

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the next round of the Iraq neighbours conference is expected to take place; and whom she expects to be representing the United Kingdom. [132707]

Margaret Beckett: With the assistance of the Government of Egypt, the Government of Iraq has decided to hold an Iraq Neighbours Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on 4 May. The Government of Iraq and the UN have also agreed to officially launch the International Compact on 3 May at the same venue.

I welcome these Iraqi initiatives and the opportunities for the international community to show its support to Iraq. I intend to represent the United Kingdom at both events.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the *(a)* Defence Secretary and *(b)* Home Secretary on a future resettlement program for those Iraqi citizens who (i) have been and (ii) are still working for the British Army deployed in Southern Iraq. [132735]

Margaret Beckett: Applications for assistance from Iraqis who work, or have worked for the Government in Iraq are dealt with on a case-by-case basis, taking account of their particular circumstances. Officials from the relevant Government Departments are engaged in ongoing discussions about how best we might be able to lend assistance to such individuals.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding and resources she provided to the Property Claims Commission in Iraq in each year since 2001; and what funding she has allocated in each of the next three years. [132395]

Mr. McCartney: The UK has not provided or allocated funding to the Property Claims Commission in Iraq.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Property Claims Commission in Iraq. [132396]

Mr. McCartney: The Commission for Resolution of Real Property Disputes, formerly Iraq Property Claims Commission, carries out an important role in addressing the consequences of Saddam's enforced migration policies. Working under difficult circumstances, their annual report states that the total number of claims received by 31 December 2006 was 122,655 of which 24.54 per cent. of claims have been decided.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Darfur Peace Agreement; and if she will make a statement. [132299]

Mr. McCartney: The Darfur Peace Agreement marked an important milestone in the development of the political process for Darfur. It provided for a comprehensive and fully monitored ceasefire, reinforced by detailed measures on Security Sector Reform and Disengagement, Demobilisation and Reintegration, and on humanitarian protection. It provided for fair political representation for Darfur as part of Sudan. It also provided mechanisms for compensation and for fair and transparent redistribution of Sudanese national wealth to Darfur as part of the overall redistribution set out under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. However, there was insufficient support among the parties to the conflict in Darfur to support the agreement. This is the main reason there has not been further progress in implementing it. We are pressing for a renewed political process under the auspices of the UN and African Union. I made clear our concerns over Darfur to the Sudanese Minister for Justice at a meeting held during the Human Rights Council on 13 March.

Thailand: Elections

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she *(a)* has made and *(b)* intends to make to her opposite number in Thailand on the conduct of elections scheduled for December in Thailand; and what international observers she expects to be present for the election campaign. [132704]

Mr. McCartney: We have consistently expressed to the Thai Government our wish to see democratic government re-established as swiftly as possible. I reiterated this when I met the Thai Foreign Minister at the EU-Association of South East Asian Nations Foreign Ministers Meeting in Nuremberg on 14-15 March. We will closely monitor the election process due to take place in December, though it is as yet unclear whether international monitors will be invited to observe the election.

Thailand: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects a referendum on a new constitution to be held in Thailand. [132562]

Mr. McCartney: As discussed during my meeting with the Thai Foreign Minister during the EU/Association of South East Asian Nations Foreign Ministers Meeting in Nuremberg on 14-15 March, we understand that a referendum is due to be held in autumn 2007.

United Nations Security Council

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK priorities and objectives are for its presidency of the United Nations Security Council. [132709]

Margaret Beckett: The principal priorities for the UK Presidency of the Security Council during April are:

to hold a thematic debate in the Security Council on Energy, Security and Climate to raise international consciousness of the implications of climate change for international security. I chaired the debate on 17 April and an unprecedented number of states took part;

to achieve agreement on increasing the pressure on Sudan to accept a UN/African Union hybrid force in Darfur. I chaired an informal Security Council discussion on Sudan on 16 April; and

for the Security Council to consider positively Mr. Ahtisaari's proposals for Kosovo. A sustainable settlement for Kosovo is urgent.

My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Kim Howells, will chair a UN Security Council debate on the Middle East today.

Vietnam: Religious Freedom

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the extent of freedom of religion in Vietnam; what representations the United Kingdom is making to encourage religious pluralism in Vietnam; and if she will make a statement. [132563]

Mr. McCartney: We are concerned about the issue of religious freedom in Vietnam, but note that the situation has improved in recent years. In November 2004, the Vietnamese passed legislation which set out the terms under which religious groups may gain official recognition. However, implementation of the new rules has been variable between regions. Additionally, the Vietnamese Prime Minister discussed restrictions on religious freedom when he met His Holiness the Pope at the Vatican on 25 January.

With our EU partners, we regularly discuss human rights issues with the Vietnamese Government. The biannual EU-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue, which was established in 2003, is the main forum for raising our concerns. The most recent dialogue was held on 20 December 2006. Freedom of religion, restrictions on religious organisations and the situation of ethnic minority Protestant groups were among the issues raised by the EU.

We are aware of reports of the continued harassment of some religious groups in some areas. We have urged the Vietnamese authorities to increase awareness and capacity among local authorities and to guarantee the right of all religious groups to practise their faith freely in the community through full implementation of the appropriate legislation and to adhere to its international human rights obligations.

We raised this issue at the recent bilateral with Vietnamese Vice-Minister Le Cung Phung during the EU/Association of South East Asian Nations Foreign Ministers Meeting in Nuremberg on 14-15 March.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Government Services

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment she has made of the use of Government services by each socio-economic group. [131977]

Hilary Armstrong: Each Government Department is responsible for regularly assessing the use of its own services by socio-economic group. However, on occasions where related to its cross-cutting role, the Cabinet Office carries out such assessments in particular policy areas. For example, recent work by the Strategy Unit with DFES looking at raising participation rates in higher education concluded that all social classes, including those from less well-off backgrounds, were more likely to participate when students obtained a level 3 qualification.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children in Custody

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in custody were looked after by the state *(a)* under a court order and *(b)* under a voluntary care order (i) prior to and (ii) after conviction in each of the last five years. [111274]

Mr. Dhanda: We do not collect centrally information on the number of children in custody who were looked after by the state nor information on convictions. However we collect information on the number of children looked after by local authorities placed in young offender institutions or prison.

The following table provides the number of children looked after by local authorities placed in youth offender institution or prison *(a)* under care order legal statuses and youth justice legal statutes and *(b)* under a voluntary care order.

Table 1: Children looked after by local authorities placed in youth offender institution or prison at 31 March (a) under care order legal statuses and under youth justice legal statutes and (b) under a voluntary care order, 2002 to 2006 [1,2,3,4] England

Number

	All children looked after by local authorities placed in youth offender institution or prison			
Years [1,2]	*All children looked after by local authorities placed in Youth Offender Institution or Prison [4]*	*Number who have care order legal statuses and under Youth justice legal statutes [5]*	*Number who have voluntary care order legal status [6]*	*Number who have other type of legal statuses [6,7]*
2002	120	100	10	0
2003	110	110	—	—
2004	140	110	30	0
2005	110	100	20	0
2006	130	110	—	—

[1] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 return which in 2001-02 and 2002-03 covered one-third sample and which since 2003-04 covers all looked after children.
[2] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 to the nearest 10 otherwise. Figures between one and five inclusive have been suppressed and replaced by a hyphen"-". It has on occasion been necessary to suppress other data whenever it would be possible to calculate missing data by means of simple arithmetic. In these circumstances the second smallest number relating to the same variable is suppressed.
[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. In previous years, data in this table would have been extracted from CLA100. To be consistent with the method used throughout the statistical volume published on 29 March 2007, data are now taken from the SSDA903 throughout and the breakdowns may therefore differ from figures in previous publications.
[4] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[5] This category includes the following legal statuses: interim care orders; full care orders; on remand, or committed for trial or sentence, and accommodated by LA; detained in LA accommodation under PACE; and sentenced to CYPA 1969 supervision order with residence requirement.
[6] This category includes the legal status of single period of accommodation under section 20.
[7] This category includes the following legal statuses: freeing order granted; placement order granted; accommodated under an agreed series of shorter-term breaks, when individual episodes of care are recorded and when agreements are recorded (i.e., not individual episodes of care); under police protection and in local authority accommodation; emergency protection order and; under child assessment order and in local authority accommodation.

Departments: EC Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which bilateral agreements have been signed between the European Union and non-EU countries establishing co-operative projects in the areas of competence covered by his Department. [133077]

Bill Rammell: The following bilateral agreements have been signed between the European Union and non-EU countries establishing co-operative projects in the field of education and skills:

Agreements with the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Department. [132203]

Mr. Dhanda: The following guidance is issued by the Department to staff on the provision of alcohol.

There is a general principle that alcohol should not be provided at public expense and never when only civil servants are present.

Moderate amounts of alcohol can be provided at public expense when entertaining non-civil servants if not providing alcohol might be regarded as unusual or cause embarrassment. Examples of such events are hospitality from Ministers, at publicity events such as launches or the rare occasions when senior staff judge that official business can best be transacted by hosting a meeting over lunch or dinner.

Departments: Oral Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to his Department for oral answer have been transferred to other Departments since May 2005. [133802]

Mr. Dhanda: Since May 2005 the Department has transferred two oral questions to other Departments.

Departments: Public Appointments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 who have since been appointed to public bodies by his Department, broken down by party; and who was responsible for making each appointment. [130142]

Mr. Dhanda: Information about the political activity of appointees is recorded and publicised in accordance with the independent Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice. This shows that no former hon. Members who left Parliament in 2005 have since been appointed to public bodies sponsored by the Department.

Education: EC Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) which *(a)* conferences, *(b)* seminars and *(c)* other events have been funded under bilateral EU-Australia funding for joint activities in higher education, training and youth; [133081]

(2) which *(a)* conferences, *(b)* seminars and *(c)* other events have been funded under bilateral EU-New Zealand funding for joint activities in higher education, training and youth. [133088]

Bill Rammell: This Department does not hold information on activities carried out under the EU's bilateral co-operation programmes which are funded and administered centrally by the European Commission.

Education: EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which UK educational establishments for which he is responsible are in receipt of EU funds. [133094]

Bill Rammell: There are well over 1,500 schools, Further Education colleges and Higher Education institutions in receipt of EU funds through programmes such as Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci. Information on individual establishments in receipt of these funds is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what EU grants were made to UK educational establishments for which he is responsible in each of the last two years for which figures are available; and what the purpose was of each award. [133098]

Bill Rammell: Some UK educational establishments receive grants directly from the EU. This information is not maintained centrally by my Department. The following table shows the EU grants made to UK educational establishments for 2005 and 2006 from the former Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci programmes. The awards were made to fund eligible activities, as shown, within these programmes.

		£'000
Purpose	*2005*	*2006*
Comenius (school) projects	8,920	10,238
Erasmus (higher education) placements	20,488	24,674
Grundtvig (adult learning) projects	n/a	373
Leonardo (vocational training) pilot projects	3,852	4,137
Leonardo (vocational training) mobility placements	2,936	7,166
Total	36,196	46,588

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which UK agencies are funded under Article 8(2) of the EU Youth in Action Programme. [133099]

Bill Rammell: No UK agencies receive funding under Article 8(2) of the EU Youth in Action Programme. However, the national agency responsible for the management of the programme in the UK has set up a number of regional committees to help in the promotion of the programme at a local level.

Educational Psychology

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the funding of training of educational psychologists. [133156]

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 879W, on educational psychologists, what the outcomes were of the meeting with representatives of educational psychologists and the local authority employers' side on the funding arrangements for those wishing to train to become an educational psychologist; [133310]

(2) what assessment he has made of future *(a)* demand for and *(b)* supply of educational psychologists in local education authorities; and if he will make a statement. [133506]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Local Government Association on its distribution to local authorities of funding for educational psychology training places for 2007-08. [133390]

Mr. Dhanda: Educational psychologists are employed by local authorities. Decisions on their recruitment, retention and deployment are matters for those authorities as employers to determine in light of local circumstances and available resources. The Department makes no manpower planning assessment for this group of local authority employees.

Funding for the training of EPs has previously come from within the Local Government Employers' (LGE) organisation's top slice of the Revenue Support Grant (RSG), as distributed by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). For the 2007-08 RSG settlement, the LGE top slice was reduced by £2.088 million and distributed by the DCLG to local authorities through formula grant, as proposed by the Local Government Association (LGA).

As we made clear in our response to the House of Commons Education and Skills Select Committee report on special educational needs (October 2006, Cm 6940), we do not believe that it would be appropriate for us to intervene in the funding arrangements for those wishing to become EPs. Local authorities, and their representative body the LGA, should determine these issues.

Lord Adonis, the Under-Secretary of State for Schools, met with representatives of the educational psychology profession and the local authority employers' side on 23 January 2007 for an update on the funding arrangements. As a result of those discussions, it was agreed that the Children's Workforce Development Council would help facilitate further discussions between the employers' side, in the form of the LGA, representatives of the EP professional interests, and training providers. We expect a report on those discussions shortly.

English Language

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on English for Speakers of Other Languages in each London borough in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [131006]

Bill Rammell: This information is collected by the national Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, has written to the hon. Lady with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

EU-Canada Joint Committee on Higher Education Training and Youth

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which *(a)* conferences, *(b)* seminars and *(c)* other events have been funded under bilateral EU-Canada funding for joint activities in Higher Education, Training and Youth. [133103]

Bill Rammell: This Department does not hold information on activities carried out under the EU's bilateral co-operation programmes which are funded and administered centrally by the European Commission.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the annual gross income for each further education college in England was in the latest year for which figures are available. [132571]

Bill Rammell: We have increased public investment in further education by 48 per cent. in real terms between 1997 and 2005. Adult education funding will increase by 7 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2007-08, with funding for young people increasing by 13 per cent. over the same period. This means that overall in 2007-08, through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) we will invest £11.2 billion, an increase of £716 million compared with 2006-07.

On the basis of information provided by the LSC, and taken from the colleges' own audited financial accounts, the gross income in 2005/06 for each further education college in England is shown in the table at Annex 1 which has been placed in the House Library.

Higher Education

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students in higher education completed degree studies in *(a)* soft furnishing and *(b)* cabinet making in each year between 1996 and 2006. [132694]

Bill Rammell: Information on the number of students completing degree studies in soft furnishing and cabinet making is not held centrally.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) publishes figures on newly qualified graduates by subject. Figures are available for crafts including both soft furnishing and cabinet making and a number of other crafts but no specific figures for either soft furnishing or cabinet making are available.

Law: Students

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding support is available for students taking a legal practice degree course. [133485]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer that I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Blackpool, South (Mr. Marsden) on 9 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 123W.

Nurseries: Non-domestic Rates

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the implications for nurseries of levying business rates on private nurseries but not maintained nurseries or those in state schools. [133851]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

All occupiers of non-domestic property, known as hereditaments, pay business rates as a way of contributing to a range of local services. Business rates are payable regardless of ownership and are based on the rateable value of the hereditament in question. The level of business rates payable by a ratepayer depends on the circumstances of the particular case. Depending on the facts, a building may for rating purposes constitute more than one hereditament. In such cases, the occupiers of those separate units would be liable for rates.

Rateable values are generally based on the assumed rent the property would attract if let on the open market on a specific date. These values are assessed by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), an independent agency of HM Revenue and Customs, in line with well-established rating principles and methodology. If ratepayers disagree with the rateable value of their property, they may challenge it by making an appeal to the VOA.

We are aware that the impact of business rates is greater on small businesses compared with larger concerns. The small business rate relief scheme that we introduced with effect from 1 April 2005 therefore provides up to 50 per cent. rate relief for eligible properties irrespective of the use to which the property is put.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make it his policy to equalise the levels of business rates for all nursery provision. [134067]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answers given today to parliamentary questions 133765, 133766 and 133851.

Personal Social and Health Education: UK Membership of EC

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his policy is on the inclusion of material promoting European citizenship in the European Communities Youth in Action programme; and if he will make a statement. [133075]

Bill Rammell: Promotion of European citizenship is a general objective of the Youth in Action Programme and is fulfilled by participants engaging in the programme's activities. In England, Citizenship Education has been a statutory subject in the secondary school curriculum since 2002. As part of Citizenship Education, pupils are expected to understand the United Kingdom's relations in Europe, including with the European Union.

Pre-school Education: Expenditure

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been spent on *(a)* School Action *(b)* School Action Plus, *(c)* Early Years Action and *(d)* Early Years Action Plus in each year since the schemes were introduced, broken down by local education authority. [132885]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally.

Pupils: Sight Impaired

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he last surveyed the availability of textbooks to blind or partially sighted children; and if he will make a statement. [133140]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not hold information on the availability of textbooks to

particular groups of children. Part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requires schools and local authorities to plan to improve access to the curriculum and written materials for all disabled pupils, including those blind or partially sighted children over time.

With regard to the availability of text books and materials in electronic format for schools, I refer my hon. Friend to the reply that I gave on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 721W, to my hon. Friend the Member for West Ham (Lyn Brown).

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of children in West Lancashire with a special educational need were referred to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal in each of the last two years. [112225]

Vera Baird: I have been asked to reply.

The table gives the number of appeals against Lancashire local authority in the last two school years, and the number of children with special educational needs in the local authority's primary and secondary schools in the January of the relevant period.

Appeals concern children residing in the local authority, rather than pupils at the local authority's schools. It would therefore be misleading to express one figure as a proportion of the other.

Appeals are made against local education authority decisions and we do not collate appeals data at a more local level.

	Special educational needs appeals	*Children with special educational needs*
2005/06	63	26,866
2004/05	66	27,050

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills who is responsible for monitoring the performance and practices of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal; and if he will place in the Library copies of monitoring reports. [132380]

Vera Baird: I have been asked to reply.

SENDIST has been part of the Tribunals Service, an Executive Agency of the DCA, since 1 April 2006. The chief executive of the Tribunals Service is, therefore, now responsible for the administration of the tribunal including its performance. SENDIST's president is an independently appointed judicial office holder and is responsible for the judicial aspects of the tribunal's work, including judicial decision making and training of the judiciary. Copies of SENDIST's most recent annual report for 2005-06 have been placed in the Library.

The Tribunals Service will be publishing its first annual report (covering 2006/07) shortly.

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of the book value of the tranche of the student loan book to be sold he hopes to achieve in the planned sale that he announced in the Budget Statement 2007. [132896]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* We are at the early stages of implementing the Budget announcement to sell income-contingent student loans. Further details about the sale will be announced in due course. We are confident that the Government will obtain good value for money, as they are obliged to do by rules of Government accounting.

Students: Loans

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people have defaulted on the payments of their student loans; and what the cost of these defaults was in each of the last five years. [131302]

Bill Rammell: The number of borrowers in arrears with their student loan repayments at the end of each of the last five financial years is shown in the table. These borrowers represented some 7 per cent. of the total number of borrowers at April 2006.

The figures relate mainly to 'mortgage style' student loans which are no longer offered to new students. Since 1998, the Government have provided loans on an income contingent basis with repayments made through the tax system, so the issue of repayment arrears and default does not normally arise.

Number of UK student loan borrowers in arrears[1]

Thousand

	At the end of financial year				
2001-02		*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06 (provisional)*
Deferring with arrears[2]	29	27	22	15	12
In arrears owing less than two months repayments[3]	29	39	51	58	64
In arrears owing two months repayments or more	80	72	62	59	48

[1] All figures apply to publicly-owned student loans, and exclude those sold to the private sector. Being in arrears does not necessarily mean that the borrower is not currently repaying at some level.
[2] These borrowers are currently deferring repayments as their income is below the repayment threshold, but have some arrears from period when payments were due accounts.
[3] This includes borrowers awaiting approval to defer their repayments, with no repayment schedule in place or owing small amounts.

Source:
Student Loans Company

The Student Loans Company does not write off any amounts and continues to seek repayments of any arrears incurred.

Training: Expenditure

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1685W, how the percentage of the train to gain budget not accounted for by training and skills brokerage is spent. [133090]

Phil Hope: Train to gain is a new service aimed at supporting business improve their productivity through increased investment in the skills of their workforce. By the end of February 2007, more than 30,000 employers have engaged their workforce in training with more than 107,000 learners engaged on training activity. Almost 70 per cent. of these were employers that fell within the definition of hard to reach.

For 2006-07, the total budget for train to gain was £281 million of which a total of £269.5 million was allocated to training and brokerage. The remaining budget is allocated to marketing and communications, evaluation and administration. In 2007-08, the planned budget is £414.4 million, of which £397.4 million is planned for training and brokerage. The remainder will be allocated to marketing and communications, evaluation and administration.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Centrica: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will set a target timetable for dealing with all stages of the Calor Gas and Centrica appeal in respect of their proposal to install a liquid natural gas importation plant on Canvey Island. [132716]

Yvette Cooper: The appeal will be dealt with in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Inquiries Procedure) (England) Rules 2000. The Planning Inspectorate have advised the parties of the timetable that the rules apply to the submission of their documents and will aim to arrange a public local inquiry date within 22 weeks from the starting date for the appeal, 15 March 2007. Following the close of the inquiry a timetable will be set for the appeal to be determined, which will be notified to the parties.

Community Wardens

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Government Office for the West Midlands to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North dated 12 March, on community wardens; why the letter was not acknowledged; and if she will take steps to ensure that correspondence to Government offices *(a)* is acknowledged and *(b)* receives a substantive reply within a reasonable period. [133138]

Mr. Woolas: A substantive response was sent on 18 April.

The Government office has a system in place to issue acknowledgements in respect of correspondence where a substantive reply is unlikely to be provided in 15 working days. Unfortunately, on this occasion this was not adhered to and I offer my hon. Friend sincere apologies for the inconvenience caused.

Departments: Oral Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many oral questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to her Department have been transferred to other Departments since May 2005. [133803]

Angela E. Smith: Since May 2005, the Department for Communities and Local Government (and its predecessor Department the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) has transferred nine oral questions to other Departments.

Energy: Conservation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans *(a)* to make proposals and *(b)* to provide incentives to improve the energy efficiency of district heating schemes. [124714]

Yvette Cooper: The decent homes standard is the major mechanism by which the Government are encouraging greater thermal and energy efficiency in social housing. The standard requires that homes have both efficient heating and effective insulation and this covers district heating systems.

The proposals in the consultation paper "Building a Greener Future" that all new homes will have to be zero carbon by 2016 could also drive the use of energy efficient district heating systems. This is supported by an incentive announced by the Chancellor in Budget 2007. The Chancellor announced a time-limited stamp duty exemption for zero carbon homes with all new zero carbon homes costing up to £500,000 paying no stamp duty.

Equal Opportunities: Adoption

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an adoption agency expressing a preference to place a child with *(a)* a black or Asian family, *(b)* a family of a specific faith and *(c)* a heterosexual couple would constitute discrimination under the Government's proposed equality legislation. [117924]

Meg Munn: An adoption agency (i.e. a local authority or a voluntary adoption agency) may assess a person as regards their suitability to adopt a child, but the decision on whether to place a child for adoption with particular prospective adopters is taken by the local authority adoption panel. The paramount consideration in any decision on whether to place a child for adoption with particular prospective adopters is the welfare of the child throughout his or her life, taking account of the child's religion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background.

Housing: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* families are in housing need in each local authority area in Hampshire; and what strategy she has for meeting this need. [131174]

Yvette Cooper: Communities and Local Government does not make estimates of housing need in each area, local authorities are required to assess housing need assessments as part of their strategic local housing market assessments.

Communities and Local Government has a variety of strategies for addressing housing need, including concentrating efforts and resources on homelessness prevention activities, increasing investment in the provision of new social housing and improving the stock of existing social housing through the Decent Homes programme.

Maps: Databases

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the cost was of developing the Maps on Tap database; [128444]

(2) what datasets are incorporated into her Department's Maps on Tap database; [128445]

(3) what *(a)* geospatial, *(b)* geo-demographic and *(c)* cadastral data her Department's Maps on Tap database holds; [128446]

(4) whether the Valuation Office Agency has access to her Department's Maps on Tap database. [128557]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Maps on Tap database at:

http://www.mapsontap.gov.uk

The Valuation Office Agency has access to the Maps on Tap database.

The cost of developing the Maps on Tap database was £3.03 million.

Non-domestic Rates: Children's Centres

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what level of business rates Sure Start children's centres pay when located within primary schools; [133765]

(2) what level of business rates is paid by *(a)* maintained and *(b)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries when located within a primary school. [133766]

Mr. Woolas: All occupiers of non-domestic property, known as hereditaments, pay business rates as a way of contributing to a range of local services. Business rates are payable regardless of ownership and are based on the rateable value of the hereditament in question. The level of business rates payable by a ratepayer depends on the circumstances of the particular case. Depending on the facts, a building may for rating purposes constitute more than one hereditament. In such cases, the occupiers of those separate units would be liable for rates.

Rateable values are generally based on the assumed rent the property would attract if let on the open market on a specific date. These values are assessed by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), an independent agency of HM Revenue and Customs, in line with well-established rating principles and methodology. If ratepayers disagree with the rateable value of their property, they may challenge it by making an appeal to the VOA.

We are aware that the impact of business rates is greater on small businesses compared with larger concerns. The small business rate relief scheme that we introduced with effect from 1 April 2005 therefore provides up to 50 per cent. rate relief for eligible properties irrespective of the use to which the property is put.

Parking: Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes Planning Policy Statement 3 has made to the number of car parking spaces allowed in new housing developments; what status Planning Policy Guidance Note 13 has in this context; and if she will make a statement. [129765]

Ruth Kelly: Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing gives local authorities the ability to set their own standards for density and car parking. PPS3 says that local authorities should, in partnership with their communities, develop residential parking policies for their areas, taking account of expected levels of car ownership, the importance of promoting good design and the need to use land efficiently.

PPS3 Annex A cancelled the guidance on residential parking in paragraphs 12-17 of Planning Policy Guidance note 13: Transport (PPG13) as the general principles of PPS3 supersede this section, by outlining the wider duty of local authorities to consider promoting sustainable transport choices and local circumstances when developing car parking policies.

Planning: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to her Department's observations of 22 February 2007 on the petition presented to the House on 26 April by the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes whether her statement that overall responsibility for planning policies and delivery in Milton Keynes remains with Milton Keynes council applies to all land within the boundary of the unitary authority. [126225]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* Milton Keynes council is responsible for all local planning policies i.e. development plan documents that apply within the boundary of the unitary authority. This includes those local planning policies which form part of the development plan for the purposes of section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The relevant planning policies within the Regional Spatial Strategy, in particular the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy, also forms part of the development plan for the Milton Keynes area.

Planning: Wind Power

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department is considering changing the guidelines for any planning policy relating to energy producing wind turbines in *(a)* national parks and *(b)* areas of outstanding natural beauty. [126691]

Yvette Cooper: We have recently consulted on a draft planning policy statement (PPS) "Planning and Climate Change". This sets out our proposals on how planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change. Planning is expected to make a full contribution to delivering the Government's Climate Change Programme and energy policies. This includes giving greater emphasis to local renewable sources for supplying the energy needs of new developments and looking favourably on proposals for renewable energy.

The draft PPS builds on our policies in PPS22 "Renewable Energy" which state that renewable energy developments should be capable of being accommodated throughout England in locations where the technology is viable and environmental, economic, and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily. PPS22 sets out detailed considerations applicable to determining planning applications for renewable energy projects, including on sites in areas with nationally recognised designations such as those within national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty. Planning permission for renewable energy projects on these sites can be granted where it is demonstrated that the objectives of designation of the area will not be compromised by the development, and any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits.

Temporary Accommodation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the progress of the research commissioned by her Department into the experiences of homeless households in temporary accommodation. [133730]

Yvette Cooper: This research is expected to be published in the autumn this year.

The publication date reflects the need for detailed analysis to ensure that the findings reflect a full understanding of the data.

Written Questions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to question 126691, on guidelines for planning policy regulations, tabled by the hon. Member for Cotswold on 6 March 2007. [133886]

Yvette Cooper: I have now replied to question 126691.

HEALTH

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she intends to take following the recommendation of the National Screening Committee, that a national screening policy should be implemented by her Department for abdominal aortic aneurysm. [133523]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (NSC) has advised that screening for men aged 65 for abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA) can be recommended in principle subject to further work, particularly on the appropriate configuration of treatment services and the provision of men to make an informed choice about whether to undergo screening. The NSC considered further work undertaken by the AAA screening working group at its meeting in March 2007. More detailed work will now be undertaken on the practical issues that would be involved in implementation.

Acute Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed transfers of care from acute beds there have been in each NHS trust in the last 12 months; and what proportion of the total number of transfers of care from acute beds this represents in each trust. [131879]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Acute Beds: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many delayed discharges there were in acute hospitals in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in the last 12 months. [130968]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of patients with delayed transfer of care at East Sussex hospitals national health service trust is available in the following table:

Month	*Patients with delayed transfer of care*
2006	
March	52
April	59
May	56
June	55
July	55
August	68
September	64
October	58
November	34
December	34
2007	
January	38

Month 2006	Patients with delayed transfer of care
February	46

Note
The number of delayed transfers of care is a snapshot taken at Midnight every Thursday.
Source
Department of Health SitReps

Animal Feed

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what restrictions are in place to ensure that pet food manufacturers do not add unsuitable ingredients to pet food; why such restrictions do not extend to a ban on both sugar and salt; and if she will make a statement. [133757]

Caroline Flint: There is extensive legislation in place covering the composition of pet food, which is designed to protect the health of pet animals. This includes maximum permitted levels for various contaminants and only substances that have undergone an official assessment for safety, quality and efficacy can be used as additives in pet foods. It is also an offence to sell pet foods that are deleterious to pet animals.

It is not necessary to ban sugar and salt as the use of such ingredients is controlled by this legislation. A wide range of ingredients, including sugar and salt, are used in manufactured pet foods to satisfy the nutritional requirements of animals and for palatability and technological reasons.

Blood: Diseases

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's per capita spending on *(a)* sickle cell and *(b)* cystic fibrosis was in each of the last five years. [133492]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the per capita spending for treating those living with sickle cell disease and cystic fibrosis is not collected.

Carers: Grants

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether funding for the carers special support grant will continue to be made available to local authorities after March 2008; and if she will make a statement on the funding of carers services over the next five years. [133222]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Decisions about the future of the carers grant in the next spending review period will be taken later this year.

Cervical Cancer: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) to make a recommendation as to whether a national immunisation programme for the human papilloma virus should be implemented; and on which dates the JCVI human papilloma virus subgroup *(a)* has met and *(b)* is expected to meet in 2007. [131863]

Caroline Flint: No decisions will be taken on introducing human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines into the immunisation programme until the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has presented its advice to Ministers for their consideration.

The JCVI is in the process of thoroughly examining the vaccine safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness evidence concerning HPV vaccines. The work is being taken forward by a sub-group of JCVI, which met in May and September (2006) and in February 2007. Further meetings of the sub-group will be scheduled as required.

The sub group's advice will be reported to the main JCVI committee for their consideration.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she has held discussions with the Department for Education and Skills on the possible implementation of a schools-based vaccination programme for human papilloma virus vaccine; [132824]

(2) whether her Department has made an assessment of what would be required to initiate a schools-based vaccination programme for human papilloma virus vaccines. [132826]

Caroline Flint: The Department is seeking advice on the new human papilloma virus vaccine from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) which is an independent expert advisory committee. Ministers will consider advice from JCVI when it is forthcoming.

Schools-based vaccination programmes have been previously used; for example the Men C vaccination campaign started in 1999 and the measles-rubella catch-up campaign in 1994.

Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the current ratio is of *(a)* NHS dentists, *(b)* private dentists and *(c)* all dentists to people in England; and what it was in each year since 1997. [133199]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: The numbers of national health service dentists per population in England are included in reports published by the Information Centre for health and social care. Most dentists eligible to provide NHS services also choose to provide some private treatment. Information is not held on the number of dentists who only provide private treatment.

Numbers of NHS dentists per population in England as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are contained in Annex F of the 'NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006'. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. This is available on-line at

www.live.theic.precedenthost.co.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Numbers of NHS dentists per population in England as at 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006 are contained in Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England Q3: 31 December 2006' report. This information is based on the new contractual arrangements and is not directly comparable with earlier information. This is available on-line at

www.live.theic.precedenthost.co.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-q3:-31-december-2006

Both reports are available in Library.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of NHS dentists operating in *(a)* Coventry and *(b)* England. [133211]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Information Centre for health and social care publishes quarterly information on the number of dentists in England at strategic health authority and primary care trust level.

The latest information available is as at 31 December 2006. Numbers of dentists at this date and at 30 June and 30 September 2006 are contained in Section G of Annex 3 of the 'National Health Service Dental Statistics for England Q3:31 December 2006' report.

This report has been placed the House of Commons Library and is also available on-line at:

www./live.theic.precedenthost.co.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-q3:-31-december-2006

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to ensure that people have access to an NHS dentist. [133213]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The dental reforms launched in April 2006 give local primary care trusts (PCTs) for the first time the responsibility for commissioning dental services to meet the needs of their local populations. Under the previous system, dentists could set up practice where they wished and choose how much or how little national health service work to provide. If a dentist stopped providing NHS services, the local NHS could do very little to secure replacement services. Under the reforms, PCTs have the resources to commission agreed levels of patient services from local dentists. If a dentist stops providing NHS services in the area, the money for that service now stays with the PCT and is used to commission services from other dentists. PCTs are increasingly using these new powers to commission additional services which better reflect local needs.

The reforms build on a programme of significant Government investment in NHS dental services and workforce expansion. The annual resources now allocated for NHS dentistry are some £400 million more than in 2003-04 (excluding the money for annual pay increases). In the two years leading up to the reforms, the Government co-ordinated a major recruitment programme, which resulted in the equivalent of over 1,450 whole time dentists joining the workforce. There are currently some 20,900 dentists on NHS contracts, around 1,500 more than two years ago and 4,000 more than in 1997. To support future growth, the Government also increased annual numbers of dental training places by 25 per cent. in 2005.

Dental Services: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was allocated for NHS dentistry in each of the last five years. [133212]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) assumed responsibility for local commissioning of primary care dentistry from 1 April 2006. The following table sets out the resources allocated to the national health service for commissioning dental services in 2006-07, including resources distributed via strategic health authorities to support dental vocational training. Total (gross) expenditure on NHS primary dental services also includes income raised from patient charges. The table includes the indicative assumptions made before the start of the year about gross budgets and patient charge income. A number of factors will affect the actual levels of gross expenditure and patient charge income, including the levels of dentistry commissioned by PCTs, the time needed for new dental services to be commissioned and come into operation, and changes in the mix of charge-paying and charge exempt patients treated.

Primary dental service resource allocation, England, 2006-07

	£ million
Net allocation	1,765
Indicative patient charge income	634
Indicative gross budget	2,398

PCTs did not receive full primary care dental allocations prior to 2006-07. The bulk of primary dental care was provided through the centrally funded general dental services (GDS). Under GDS, spending was largely demand-led, with dentists determining how much NHS work they carried out and claiming separate fees for each individual item of treatment. The following table sets out overall (gross) expenditure on NHS primary dental care in the four years from 2002-03 to 2005-06.

Gross expenditure on primary dental care (general dental services and personal dental service pilots), England

Financial year	£ million
2002-03	1,749
2003-04	1,815
2004-05	1,951
2005-06	2,205

Drugs: Prisons

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding for the Integrated Drug Treatment System has been allocated to each prison in England and Wales. [130197]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* In 2006-07, the Department invested £12 million in the integrated drug treatment system (IDTS). This has paid for 45 prisons to implement the clinical element of IDTS. £7.8 million of this funding was allocated directly to these prisons.

For 2007-08, investment will increase to £12.7 million and 49 prisons will receive funding. We plan to allocate £11.1 million of this sum directly to these prisons.

In addition to this, the Home Office invested £5 million in 2006-07 for the psycho-social element of IDTS. This has been implemented in 17 of the 45 prisons. Of this sum, £3.5 million was allocated directly to these prisons. The amount of this investment for 2007-08 will increase to £6 million.

The amounts allocated directly to each prison are shown in the table. The remainder of this investment has been invested in the small building conversions and alternations necessary in these prisons to accommodate IDTS facilities, as well as in central programme costs, which include training, research and evaluation, clinical support and regional management support.

New PCT	*New SHA*	*Prison*	*2006-07 allocation*	*2007-08 allocation*	£ *2007-08 allocation (rounded up)*
Northumberland Care Trust	North East	Acklington	120,599	160,799	161,000.00
Leicestershire County and Rutland	East Midlands	Ashwell	93,442	124,589	125,000.00
Heart of Birmingham Teaching	West Midlands	Birmingham	438,767	585,023	585,000.00
Great Yarmouth and Waveney	East of England	Blundeston	80,445	107,260	107,000.00
Lambeth	London	Brixton	325,598	434,131	434,000.00
Oxfordshire	South Central	Bullingdon	277,064	369,419	369,000.00
Mid Essex	East of England	Chelmsford	323,877	431,836	432,000.00
Surrey	South East Coast	Coldingley	65,441	87,255	87,000.00
Devon	South West	Dartmoor	103,604	138,139	138,000.00
County Durham	North East	Deerbolt	85,612	114,149	114,000.00
Doncaster	Yorkshire and the Humber	Doncaster	497,511	663,348	663,000.00
County Durham	North East	Dorchester	182,146	242,861	243,000.00
County Durham	North East	Durham	350,000	466,667	467,000.00
South Gloucestershire	South West	Eastwood Park	240,020	320,027	320,000.00
Suffolk	East of England	Edmonds Hill	108,197	144,263	144,000.00
Wiltshire	South West	Erlestoke	86,933	115,911	116,000.00
East Riding of Yorkshire	Yorkshire and the Humber	Everthorpe	99,013	132,017	132,000.00
South Staffordshire	West Midlands	Featherstone	110,469	147,292	147,000.00
Derbyshire County	East Midlands	Foston Hall	198,196	264,261	264,000.00
Gloucestershire	South West	Gloucester	193,233	257,644	258,000.00
Dorset	South West	Guys Marsh	126,366	168,488	168,000.00
Cumbria	North West	Haverigg	92,892	123,856	124,000.00
Suffolk	East of England	High Point	98,899	131,865	132,000.00
Surrey	South East Coast	Highdown	366,331	488,441	488,000.00
Hull	Yorkshire and the Humber	Hull	369,007	492,009	492,000.00
Doncaster	Yorkshire and the Humber	Lindholme	118,604	158,139	158,000.00
County Durham	North East	Low Newton	168,591	224,788	225,000.00
Nottinghamshire County	East Midlands	Lowdham Grange	74,440	99,253	99,000.00
Doncaster	Yorkshire and the Humber	Moorland (O&C)	188,877	251,836	252,000.00
North Yorkshire and York	Yorkshire and the Humber	North Allerton	80,614	107,485	107,000.00
Lincolnshire	East Midlands	North Sea Camp	032,504	176,672	177,000.00
Nottingham City	East of England	Nottingham	302,697	403,596	404,000.00
Northamptonshire	East Midlands	Onley	135,402	180,536	181,000.00
Bassetlaw	East Midlands	Ranby	199,448	265,931	266,000.00
Northamptonshire	East Midlands	Rye Hill	75,772	101,029	101,000.00
South Staffordshire	West Midlands	Stafford	97,424	129,899	130,000.00
Eastern and Costal Kent	South East Coast	Standford Hill	165,905	221,207	221,000.00
Leicestershire County and Rutland	East Midlands	Stocken	88,813	118,417	118,000.00
Central and Eastern Cheshire	North West	Styal	332,195	442,927	443,000.00
Derbyshire County	East Midlands	Sudbury	107,525	143,367	143,000.00
West Hertfordshire	East of England	The Mount	82,791	110,388	110,000.00
Leeds	Yorkshire and the Humber	Wealstun	131,425	175,233	175,000.00
Norfolk	East of England	Weyland	86,246	114,995	115,000.00
East Riding of Yorkshire	Yorkshire and the Humber	Wolds	76,015	101,353	101,000.00
Hammersmith and Fulham	London	Wormwood Scrubs	125,786	167,715	516,000.00
Eastern and Costal Kent	South East Coast	Elmley	0.00	448,000	448,000.00

New PCT	New SHA	Prison	2006-07 allocation £	2007-08 allocation £	2007-08 allocation (rounded up) £
West Kent	South East Coast	Maidstone	0.00	88,000	88,000.00
Medway	South East Coast	Rochester	0.00	129,000	129,000.00
Eastern and Costal Kent	South East Coast	Swaleside	0.00	83,000	83,000.00
Total			7,804,736	11,154,315	11,500,000

Family Practitioner Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress she has made in establishing an expanding practice allowance, as referred to in paragraph 3.33 of her Department's White Paper of 30 January 2006, "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say". [131932]

Andy Burnham: As we explained in paragraph 3.33 of "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", we have asked NHS employers to consider the case for establishing an expanding practice allowance as part of the general practice contract framework. Progress on this has however been inhibited by the decision by the British Medical Association to withdraw from the negotiation about the contract framework for 2007-08.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1138W, on influenza, what estimate she has made of the total number of poultry workers in England who are eligible for receiving seasonal influenza vaccination under the relevant programme. [131881]

Caroline Flint: All premises that keep 50 or more birds of designated poultry species are required to register on the Great Britain Poultry Register (GBPR). As of 5 January 2007, there were around 17,000 such premises registered employing around 61,000 poultry workers.

Further information about the number of poultry workers eligible for receiving seasonal influenza vaccination is contained in the departmental guidance on the implementation of a seasonal flu vaccination programme for poultry workers available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthandsocialcaretopics/Flu/DH_063506

Maternity Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to reduce the negative effects on *(a)* babies, *(b)* parents and *(c)* the NHS associated with pre-term birth. [132258]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: "Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service" published on 3 April sets out the Government's framework for services to provide safe, high quality maternity care. The priority for modern maternity services is to enable the whole pregnancy experience to be as safe and satisfying as possible for mother and baby and to support new parents to have a confident start to family life.

In line with the vision set out in the report of the Department's Expert Review Group on Neonatal Intensive Care, published in 2003, we have facilitated the development of 24 neonatal managed clinical networks to provide safe and effective services for mothers and babies. Since April 2003 over £70 million additional funding has been made available to support the development of these networks. This is in addition to the general increase in national health service funding, from which neonatal services can also benefit. Because of improvements in technology and the development of health care expertise, greater numbers of very small babies are being born alive and surviving. In the past many of these babies would have died just before or just after birth.

NHS Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1748W, on NHS Direct, which organisations the NHS Direct NHS Trust pays for the provision of the NHS Direct service through Freeview; and how much she expects each such organisation to receive in the 2007-08 financial year. [131846]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally. This is a matter for the chief executive of the new NHS Direct NHS Trust.

NHS Treatment Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to publish the review of NHS walk-in centre funding arrangements. [131941]

Andy Burnham: We now expect to publish the report of the NHS walk-in centre funding review in early summer.

Nutrition

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the Food Standards Agency's nutrient profiling model; and if she will make a statement. [131987]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency will review the effectiveness of the nutrient profiling model after one year of use.

Testosterone

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of waiting times for testosterone therapy. [132168]

Caroline Flint: The information is not collected centrally.

Tobacco Packs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 65W, on tobacco packs, when she plans to publish final proposals relating to the introduction of picture warnings on tobacco packs. [131900]

Caroline Flint: The Department is still finalising proposals for the introduction of picture warnings on tobacco packs. There is no date yet set to publish final proposals, but the Department expects this to be in the coming months.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Great Yarmouth of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1797W, on transplant surgery, if she will break down the figures for those awaiting organ transplant in each year since 1997 by the type of organ they are waiting to receive. [133053]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the numbers of patients listed (including those temporarily suspended) as at the end of each of the last 10 years.

Organ	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Kidney	5,534	5,631	5,835	6,028	6,107	6,308	6,447	6,833	7,126	7,941
Pancreas	4	9	9	28	29	43	41	61	84	97
Kidney/pancreas	63	62	69	98	116	111	111	132	130	217
Heart	305	275	264	156	113	99	104	113	102	88
Lung(s)	227	204	205	205	243	267	267	275	263	275
Heart/lungs	140	123	127	109	74	76	59	53	42	38
Liver	184	203	167	155	160	168	249	258	364	334
Total	6,457	6,507	6,676	6,779	6,842	7,072	7,278	7,725	8,111	8,990

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 26 April 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

EC Law: Parliamentary Scrutiny

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Leader of the House what plans he has to improve scrutiny of EU legislation. [133850]

Mr. Straw: This remains under consideration. I have recently discussed the matter with the chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Waste Disposal

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what percentage of waste from the House of Commons Estate for *(a)* recycling and *(b)* incineration was exported for processing in each of the past three years. [120731]

Nick Harvey: The House's waste contractor has reported the following:

(a) Recycling:

Paper and cardboard

Once the paper and cardboard is processed, ideally it is all then sold to paper mills within the UK. However, because the re-sale market for this material varies so much on a daily basis, sometimes this material is exported to Europe and the Far East. It is not possible to establish the percentage of the House of Commons' paper and cardboard that is exported.

Glass, plastic and metals

The other main recyclable materials such as glass, plastic and metals are generally sold on to reprocessing plants based within the UK.

Soil and hardcore waste is handled and reused within the UK.

(b) Incineration:

None of the waste for incineration is exported. It is all sent to the contractor's Energy from Waste Plant in North London.

WALES

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Office was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134050]

Mr. Hain: In the last three years the Wales Office has used 100 per cent. recycled paper for photocopying and printing, and the paper used in our publications for the last three years has been at least 75 per cent. recycled.

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many days he spent in Wales on official business in each of the last 12 months; and on how many occasions he stayed overnight. [133620]

Mr. Hain: In the last 12 months I have spent 67 days in Wales in my capacity as Secretary of State for Wales.

In addition to the time spent in Wales, the Under-Secretary of State and I undertake Wales business in Parliament and in the Wales Office at Gwydyr House in London.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Nepal

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions he has had with *(a)* Virgin Airlines, *(b)* British Airways and *(c)* other carriers on the possibility of direct flights from the UK to Nepal; [133565]

(2) what representations he has received on the desirability of direct flights between the UK and Nepal. [133564]

Gillian Merron: Ministers and officials meet regularly with UK airlines to discuss their future plans for all parts of the world. No specific representations relating to air services to Nepal have been made in any recent discussions with airlines or other bodies. It is a matter for airlines to decide which destinations they wish to serve.

Crossrail Line

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his timetable is for making a decision on the Crossrail project in London. [126866]

Mr. Tom Harris: Crossrail funding and financing issues will be considered further in the context of Sir Michael Lyons' recommendations and wider spending pressures and priorities. However, the affordability challenge represented by the scheme remains significant.

Highways Agency: Vehicles

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the Highways Agency uses four wheel drive vehicles for motorway patrols. [133885]

Dr. Ladyman: The Traffic Officer Service is a 24 hour-365 day operation covering all the motorways in England and certain key interlinking trunk roads. Given the nature of the service it is essential that the vehicles which are provided for patrol activities are able to safely operate in adverse weather conditions such as snow and slippery surfaces, hence four wheel drive is considered to be essential. This drive provision also enables the vehicles to be used for certain carriageway clearance operations. There is also a further requirement for a high payload in order to carry the crew, essential kit

and, where appropriate, passengers, which means that only vehicles of a particular size can safely be used.

M1

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to reduce congestion on the southbound carriageway of the M1 motorway caused by queuing vehicles seeking to exit at junction 19; if he will consider widening the road at this point to create an extra lane; and if he will make a statement. [133932]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency is aware of queuing on the M1 southbound approach to junction 19. A major improvement scheme is programmed which will increase capacity and improve flow at this junction. One of the anticipated benefits will be to eliminate the queuing problem. Preparatory work is in progress and, subject to statutory processes being completed, work on site is expected to begin in February 2009.

As an interim measure advance warning signs have been installed for safety reasons. There are no plans to widen this section of the M1.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many prosecutions were brought against the keepers of foreign registered vehicles for failing to re-register their vehicle details with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency after six months in each of the last five years. [132948]

Dr. Ladyman: There is no current legislation available to the Agency, which allows for the prosecution of keepers of foreign vehicles who have failed to register their vehicles within the required timescales.

However, if the Agency receives a report recording the sighting of an unlicensed vehicle on the road, the Agency is able to prosecute under the legislation provided by Section 29 VERA. There are practical difficulties with this and unless a name and address of the keeper of the foreign vehicle is provided the Agency is unable to pursue these cases. The Agency is able to utilise other enforcement action such as the wheel clamping and impounding of a vehicle. Vehicle keepers are required to provide evidence of registration in the UK and licensing before the release of the vehicle. The number of prosecutions of foreign vehicles under this legislation in each of the last five years is not collated.

Motorcycles: Licensing

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1853W, on motorcycles: licensing, what the location will be of each of the off-road motorcycle test facilities that will be available for use at the date of the implementation of the off-road manoeuvre aspects of the European Second Driving Licence Directive; and if he will make a statement. [133882]

Dr. Ladyman: The following lists the 67 search areas identified by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) for possible locations of off-road motorcycle test facilities (ORMTF). The list also indicates the 20 acquired before the end of March 2007.

It is not possible to confirm which of the remaining 47 sites will be operational by October 2008. This is because acquisition and construction are subject to market availability, planning consent, brownfield remediation, and other factors outside DSA's control.

We are confident that, by the implementation date of October 2008, most customers will be able to reach an MPTC within 45 minutes, travelling no more than 20 miles. DSA will also reach the current target of 40 per cent. of customers being within 20 miles or 45 minutes of an ORMTF by March 2008.

Search locations:

Aberdeen
Aylesbury
Ayr
Bangor
Bathgate
Blackburn
Bournemouth
Bristol East
Burgess Hill
Burton-upon-Trent
Cambridge
Carlisle
Chester
Dumfries
Dundee
Eastbourne
Fareham
Greater London East (Essex)
Greater London South (Croydon)
Greater London West
Greater Manchester North
Guildford
Haverfordwest
Herne Bay
Inverness
Isle of Wight
Keighley
Kirkcaldy
Leeds or Wakefield
Lerwick
Lincoln
Macclesfield North or Stockport
Maidstone/Gillingham
Merseyside (St. Helens)
Norwich
Oban
Peterborough
Plymouth East
Reading, Basingstoke or Newbury
Redruth
Stoke
Swindon
Taunton

Wellingborough or Kettering
Wick
Wolverhampton
York

Search location for which a property has been acquired:

Bedford
Birmingham South
Darlington North
East Lothian
Exeter
Gateshead
Glasgow
Gloucester
Greater London South - Erith
Greater London North - Enfield
Hull
Ipswich
King's Lynn
Leicester South
Newport
Nottingham East
Rotherham
Scunthorpe
Shrewsbury
Swansea

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were in working and non-working households *(a)* below 60 per cent. of median income, *(b)* in the bottom 20 per cent. of the income distribution and (c) the bottom 30 per cent. of the income distribution in each year since 1994-95. [133943]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following tables.

At present, we are unable to provide data for 2005-06 as the Households Below Average Income 2005-06 release is currently being revised. The new release will be available from mid-May.

The Secretary of State made a written statement to Parliament on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 20WS on why the statistics are being revised.

(a) Number of children (millions) living in households below 60 per cent. of median income: by working/non-working households: before housing costs

	Working households	Non-working households
1994-95	1.3	1.9
1995-96	1.2	1.8
1996-97	1.4	2.0
1997-98	1.6	1.9
1998-99	1.5	1.8
1999-2000	1.5	1.7
2000-01	1.3	1.6
2001-02	1.4	1.6
2002-03	1.4	1.6
2003-04	1.3	1.5
2004-05	1.3	1.4

(b) Number of children (millions) living in households below 20 per cent. of income distribution: by working/non-working households: before housing costs

	Working households	Non-working households
1994-95	1.4	2.0
1995-96	1.3	2.0
1996-97	1.5	2.0
1997-98	1.6	1.9
1998-99	1.6	1.8
1999-2000	1.6	1.8
2000-01	1.5	1.7
2001-02	1.5	1.7
2002-03	1.6	1.7
2003-04	1.6	1.7
2004-05	1.6	1.6

(c) Number of children (millions) living in households below 30 per cent. of income distribution: by working/non-working households: before housing costs

	Working households	Non-working households
1994-95	2.3	2.5
1995-96	2.3	2.6
1996-97	2.4	2.5
1997-98	2.6	2.3
1998-99	2.6	2.3
1999-2000	2.6	2.3
2000-01	2.6	2.2
2001-02	2.7	2.1
2002-03	2.8	2.1
2003-04	2.7	2.1
2004-05	2.8	2.0

Notes:
1. The information is for Great Britain up to 2001/02 and for the United Kingdom from 2002-03 onwards.
2. It is based on OECD equivalisation factors and therefore will not be the same as any figures previously published that were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Children: Maintenance

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Support Agency uses local authority certificated bailiffs for the collection of arrears of child support payments. [130862]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Gentleman with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 26 April 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Support Agency uses local authority certificated bailiffs for the collection of arrears of child support payments. [130862]

The Agency's bailiffs are appointed by the county court, not the local authority. As such, the bailiffs used by the Agency are county court certificated, rather than local authority certificated.

Certificated bailiffs are granted a certificate by a County Court judge which allows them to levy distress for rent. To obtain a certificate, the applicant must satisfy the judge that he is a fit and proper person to hold a certificate, that he has sufficient knowledge of the law of distress, and that he is not in the business of buying debts.

Further information concerning the certification of bailiffs can be found on the Department for Constitutional Affairs website at the following address:

http://www.dca.gov.uk/enforcement/enfrev01/repac/htm.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what action he is taking to speed up execution of arrest warrants in cases of persistent failure to pay child support; [123984]

(2) what the target time is for the period between the issuance and execution of arrest warrants in cases of persistent failure to pay child support; and what the average time was in the last period for which figures are available. [124015]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

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and;

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the target time is for the period between the issuance and execution of arrest warrants in cases of persistent failure to pay child support; and what the average time was in the last period for which figures are available. [124015]

The priority for execution of child support warrants is set by each Magistrates' court who will arrange for the execution of warrants through either their own civilian enforcement officers or the Police. The Agency cannot set a target for the executions of warrants.

The Agency is working with the Office for Criminal Reform and the Department of Constitutional Affairs on an ongoing basis to improve the current time taken to execute arrest warrants.

The current management information system cannot provide the average period between the issuance and execution of warrants. As at the end of January 2007 the Agency had 278 outstanding warrants in England and Wales. The average period for which these have been outstanding is approximately 50 weeks.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Community Care Grant

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received a community care grant in each of the last three years; and how many *(a)* were disabled and *(b)* were receiving disability living allowance. [116523]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 18 January 2007]:* The available information is in the following table.

Number of people who received community care grant awards in Great Britain

	2004-05	2005-06
All	261,000	273,000
Disabled	94,000	96,000

Notes:
1. A community care grant award is recorded as being made in a given year if the final decision on the application (including any review(s)) was made in that year.
2. Some people in each category received more than one community care grant award in a year.
3. The disabled category does not include pensioners who are disabled or unemployed people who are disabled.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.
5. Figures are based on an analysis of all community care grant decisions held on the social fund computer system at the end of September following each year.

Departments: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's staff are located in Eastbourne. [130930]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions currently employs 99 staff (equating to 84.9 full-time equivalent posts) in Eastbourne.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Department. [132189]

Mrs. McGuire: Any expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Accordingly alcohol is provided only as an exception and only with the specific written authority of a small number of designated senior civil servants.

Deprived Areas Fund

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what deprived areas fund allocations his Department *(a)* made in 2006-07 and *(b)* plans to make in 2007-08, broken down by district; and if he will make a statement; [129634]

(2) how much of the deprived areas funds allocated by his Department in 2006-07 have been spent, broken down by district; and if he will make a statement. [129635]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* Information on the Deprived Areas Fund allocation by district for 2006/07 and 2007/08 is in the table.

Information on spend from the fund is only available for one district; Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside. It has recorded a spend of £17,640 to the end of February. Information on spend by other districts will be available later in the year as part of their regular reporting process.

Any unspent allocation for 2006-07 will be carried over to 2007-08.

Deprived areas fund allocation

Jobcentre Plus District	*2006-07*	*£ 2007-08*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	98,877	313,000
Essex	71,305	226,000
Norfolk	69,804	222,000
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	58,946	189,000
Derbyshire	173,034	537,000
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	292,828	79,576
Lincolnshire and Rutland	91,271	287,000
Nottinghamshire	402,163	186,998
West London	373,640	0
Central London	438,291	1,349,000
City and East London	1,463,187	21,218
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	905,103	2,780,000
North and North East London	934,576	2,034,549
South London	598,965	1,405,983
Northumbria	533,365	0
South Tyne and Wear Valley	810,030	527,309
Tees Valley	518,153	1,596,000
Cheshire and Warrington	59,897	193,000
Cumbria	134,054	418,000
Greater Mersey	574,246	0
Liverpool and Wirral	791,966	0
Lancashire	509,596	1,167,223
Greater Manchester Central	803,374	0
Greater Manchester East and West	422,128	0
Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde	436,389	1,344,000
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders	160,675	97,897
Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside	405,966	793,303
Glasgow	946,936	0
Highlands, Islands and Clyde Coast and Grampian	365,084	1,125,000
Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire	442,094	1,361,000
Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire	47,537	26,000
Hampshire	47,537	110,000
Kent	89,369	280,000
Surrey and Sussex	86,517	274,000
Devon and Cornwall	83,665	265,000
Dorset and Somerset	47,537	89,000
Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon	47,537	128,000
West of England	96,025	301,000
South Wales Valleys	922,217	1,233,587
North and Mid Wales	186,345	492,035
South East Wales	290,926	789,746
South West Wales	486,778	1,491,000
Birmingham and Solihull	821,438	0
Coventry and Warwickshire	90,320	0
Staffordshire	81,764	257,000
The Black Country	463,961	0
The Marches	0	0
North East Yorkshire and The Humber	301,384	932,000
South Yorkshire	538,118	0
West Yorkshire	685,483	2,105,000
Total	19,300,000	27,027,424

Notes:
1. Districts recorded as having a zero Deprived Areas Fund (DAF) allocation for 2007/08 are in City Strategy areas. In these areas, DAF money will be allocated to City Strategy consortia.
2. In the Marches district, only one ward qualified for DAF allocation in 2006/07. As this was a very modest amount, a decision was taken to carry it forward to 2007/08 and include it in the City Strategy consortia allocation.

Source:
WP Areas Initiatives and Communities Division

Employment: Discrimination

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the implementation of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 on company benefits available to retired employees; and if he will make a statement. [131993]

James Purnell: The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations implement the age strand of Directive 2000/78 EC establishing a framework for equal treatment in employment and vocational training. This requirement makes it unlawful for pension schemes to discriminate against members or prospective members of a pension scheme and was introduced in December 2006.

In the last few months, companies have been reviewing their occupational pension schemes in compliance with these regulations. The Government's aim has been to ensure that occupational pension provision will not be jeopardised by this legislation, but it is still too early to assess the effect in practice of these regulations.

Jobcentres: Norfolk

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what associated services are offered by *(a)* Swaffham and *(b)* Downham Market Jobcentre Plus branches; and what plans have been made for their continued provision if these Jobcentre Plus branches are closed; [126238]

(2) what assessment he has made of the financial savings that would be achieved as a result of the closure of the Swaffham and Downham Market Jobcentre Plus branches; [126248]

(3) what alternatives have been considered to closing Jobcentre Plus branches at Swaffham and Downham Market. [126253]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 26 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about the closure of Swaffham and Downham Market Jobcentres. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

You are already aware that we are currently consulting on the closure of both these sites, and no decision will be made on the closure of either Swaffham or Downham Market until the consultation is complete.

Both these offices currently deliver the full range of Jobcentre Plus services including Fortnightly Jobsearch Reviews for customers in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance. The only exception to this is when customers require New Jobseeker interviews; these are delivered from Dereham for Swaffham customers, and Kings Lynn for Downham Market customers.

Both Jobcentres also provide Jobsearch facilities through our Job Point technology. Additionally customers can access these services via the internet and our Contact Centre Jobseekers Direct Service.

If closure of these Jobcentres does go ahead, we intend to provide all advisory and Fortnightly Jobsearch Reviews in other locations. For Downham Market customers this would usually be at Kings Lynn, unless transport links make it easier for them to travel elsewhere. The majority of Swaffham customers would use Dereham Jobcentre, again unless transport links make it easier for them to travel to another Jobcentre. However we will also consider the provision of alternative ways for customers to access our services.

As part of the consultation we are already considering how we could provide these alternative services. In Downham Market we have opened discussion with the Local Authority regarding the feasibility of delivering Fortnightly Jobsearch Reviews from existing Local Authority premises. We have not yet been able to identify similar opportunities in Swaffham but are continuing discussions with our partners.

In addition to these specific proposals we will ensure that our Internet access and Contact Centre Jobsearch facilities are marketed to our customers. We are also looking at the feasibility of locating some of our Job Points in partner premises.

The financial savings that could be realised if these sites are closed would depend upon the potential alternative services provided.

I hope this is helpful.

New Deal

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many New Deal training providers have had their contracts terminated; and for what reason in each case; [111227]

(2) what action has been taken against providers of ineffective training on the New Deal programmes. [111228]

Mr. Jim Murphy: New contracts for the delivery of New Deal programmes commenced in May 2006 in Scotland, and in July 2006 in England and Wales. None of those contracts has to date been terminated. Information on whether any New Deal training providers had their contracts terminated between January 1998, when New Deal started, and April 2006, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

One New Deal prime contract in Jobcentre Plus's South Tyne and Wear Valley District will end by mutual agreement in October 2007. This is because Jobcentre Plus has concluded that the arrangements in place do not deliver the outcomes and quality service expected for customers. Alternative arrangements are being established.

Ineffective providers are dealt with through Department for Work and Pensions contract management processes. In the first instance, a performance improvement plan is agreed with the contractor. If performance fails to improve within a reasonable timescale, a formal breach notice is issued to the contractor. If contract delivery continues to fall below the required standard, the contract is terminated.

Social Security Benefits: Mentally Ill

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 898W, on mental health, what MIND's conclusions on quality assurance for the Condition or Disability training product were; and if he will make a statement. [124739]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 26 April 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question pursuant to the answer of 15th January 2007, Official Report, column 898W, on mental health asking what was MIND's conclusions on quality assurance for the Condition or Disability training product. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus works with a range of partners including MIND in the development of training materials to support the implementation of the Jobcentre Plus Incapacity Benefit Adviser role. The 'Working with Customers with a Health Condition or Disability' training product was developed for staff and sent to MIND for their quality assurance prior to release. On this occasion MIND did not provide any comments or suggestions to the development of this product, however Mencap did respond and we took their comments into consideration.

I hope this is helpful.

Social Security Benefits: Widowed People

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of widowed parent's allowance in each of the last 10 years, in each local authority area. [132172]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Unemployment: Households

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of households of working age adults with no one in work in each year since 1977-78; what projection he has made of that percentage in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [123595]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Labour Force Survey data used to answer this question are only available from 1992. The latest available data are for 2006. There is no information available on the projected percentage of households of working age adults with no one in work for 2007-08.

The available information is in the following table.

Percentage of households of working age adults with no one in work in Great Britain from 1992-2006

Quarter/As at spring	Percentage
1992	19
1993	19.3
1994	20.7
1995	20.1
1996	18.5
1997	17.7
1998	17.4
1999	16.8
2000	16.2
2001	16
2002	16.1
2003	15.8
2004	15.5
2005	15.7
2006	15.4

Notes:
1. Data for 1992-96 are non re-weighted and should not be used in conjunction with data from spring 1997 onwards.
2. Data have been adjusted for unknown economic activity.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source:
Labour Force Survey

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Subsidies

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on her plans to reform or phase out the housing subsidy system for council housing. [129218]

Yvette Cooper: Housing revenue account (HRA) subsidy is based on a notional measure of authorities' income (which is mainly rents) and expenditure. If need to spend is assumed to be greater than assumed income, then the authority is assumed to have a deficit and HRA subsidy is paid to the authority to make up that shortfall. If the assumed income is greater than the assumed need to spend, this negative subsidy is captured, recycled within the HRA subsidy system and used to help pay for the subsidy entitlement of the deficit authorities. Even with this recycling, in the most recent year for which audited data are available (2005-06), the Exchequer still made an annual contribution of over £200 million.

Surpluses (and deficits) are not related to the efficiency of a council in operating its HRA. Surpluses rarely, if ever, occur where the need to spend is greatest; if we were to allow those authorities that make surpluses to retain them this would, within the total funding levels agreed, mean reduced subsidies and therefore higher rents, for all those authorities with a deficit. The alternative would be higher taxes or cuts in services. We also need to recognise that the surpluses that are being generated by some authorities come from housing that has largely been funded by central Government.

The Department is currently working with a group of local authorities to investigate the potential benefits, in terms of asset management, efficiency and better outcomes, of allowing some councils to leave the subsidy system. Self financing would involve a one-off settlement to replace future subsidy or surplus payments. As such, it would not be a means for surplus authorities simply to retain a larger share of overall housing resources.

Departments: Publicity

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Department's total spending and that of its predecessors was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128040]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government was established on 5 May 2006. The campaigns run since then are as follows:

The Fire Safety campaign

This was aimed at reducing the number deaths and serious injuries caused by domestic fires. The media spend is as follows:

	£
Television	1,200,000
Radio	99,000
Print	118,622
Online	183,000

Home Information Packs campaign.

The aim of the campaign is to inform the industry and those in the market of the introduction of Home Information Packs and to encourage take up. The media spend is as follows:

	£
Radio	360,000
Print	1,862,000
Online	561,000

Tenancy Deposit campaign

Aimed at alerting landlords and tenants of their new obligations under the law. The media spend is as follows:

	£
Radio	270,000
Print	233,000
Online	70,000
Other	50,000

Fire Order Reform campaign

Aimed at small and medium sized business to alert them to their obligations under the new fire order reform regulations. The media spend was as follows:

	£
Radio	339,851.61
Trade Press	111,186.70
National Press	90,048.00
Online	91,994.00
Direct mail.	309,232.00

Connect to your council - Take-Up campaign.

The campaign is aimed at encouraging individuals to use the online services provided by local authorities. The media spend is as follows:

Phase 1 May 2006 to end June 2006

	£
Television	n/a
Radio	602,000
Print media	1,034,00

Phase 2 September 2006 to end October 2006

	£
Television	n/a
Radio	544,000
Print media	230,000

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff she expects to be transferred from existing fire control centres to the regional fire control centres; what consultation she has held with staff and unions about Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) transfer; and what arrangements she plans to make for staff unable to transfer to the new regional fire control centres. [131227]

Angela E. Smith: The number of staff transferring from existing control rooms will not be known until the local authority controlled companies have formulated proposals on staff numbers and structure, and criteria have been developed that define the circumstances under which it would be unreasonable for staff to transfer.

The Department has published guidance on a wide range of issues relating to the transfer and many informal discussions with staff have been held. Formal consultation is a matter for the current employers and the regional control centre companies. For staff who are unlikely to be able to transfer, fire and rescue authorities have been encouraged to find alternative jobs, and where appropriate, to provide retraining. Costs of redeployment and retraining will be borne by the Department, within reason. The Department seeks to avoid compulsory redundancies where possible.

Government Office for London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1144W, on the Government Office for London, for what reasons the information requested is not held centrally; and if she will consider the case for holding such information. [132499]

Angela E. Smith: It is not a valuable use of resources to record centrally all the items of business referred to in the earlier question. Since 2002 Government Office for London (GOL) has had a central database which records draft replies produced for Ministers in all sponsoring Departments in response to hon. Members' letters. This database shows that GOL has dealt with the following number of Ministerial correspondence cases each year since 2002:

	Number
2002-03	503
2003-04	461
2004-05	708
2005-06	325
2006-07	327

There are no plans to record centrally GOL's direct correspondence with members of the public.

HomeBuy Scheme

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications have been made for the *(a)* Open Market HomeBuy, *(b)* Social HomeBuy and *(c)* New Build HomeBuy schemes; and how many have been (i) accepted and (ii) refused in each case. [133815]

Yvette Cooper: Between April 2006 and February 2007 there were 19,268 applications for Open Market HomeBuy, of which 10,580 have been approved so far by HomeBuy agents. Only a small number are rejected—the majority of those not approved will be still going through the application process. Of those applications approved, 716 were subsequently cancelled. This can be a result of applicants formally withdrawing from the scheme or, for example, detailed financial checks revealing county court judgments. In addition a large number of approved applicants will simply not pursue their application, without formally withdrawing it.

Between April 2006 and February 2007 there were 73,556 applications for New Build HomeBuy of which 54,624 have been approved by HomeBuy Agents. Only a small number are rejected—the majority of those not approved will be still going through the application process. Information on cancelled approvals is not held for New Build HomeBuy because the applicants buy through a large number of housing association providers, and mortgages are available from all lenders.

A large number of applicants will initially apply for both Open Market and New Build HomeBuy and will therefore feature in both figures.

Between April 2006 and February 2007, 534 applicants were received by RSLs for Social HomeBuy pilots. Information on applications declined for Social HomeBuy is not recorded on a monthly basis, but will be examined as part of an extensive monitoring exercise to be undertaken on the programme later this year.

In the LA sector, between July 2006 and March 2007, 96 applications were received, of which 37 were refused.

Housing: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency, *(b)* Tees Valley sub-region and *(c)* North East Region are part of a Shared Home Ownership scheme. [131366]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows the number of new homes provided on shared ownership terms through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing programme (AHP) and local authority social housing grant (LASHG) in Hartlepool, Tees Valley and North East Region for 2002-03 to 2005-06 and planned 2007-08. We do not hold figures for the numbers of households currently in shared ownership. Information is not available at constituency level.

Shared ownership completions through AHP and LASHG

	Hartlepool	*Tees Valley*	*North East*
2002-03	0	0	6
2003-04	11	21	26
2004-05	0	23	88
2005-06	0	11	73
2006-07[1]	0	50	100
2007-08[2]	10	99	251

[1] Provisional
[2] Planned
Note:
Tees Valley includes the following local authorities:
Darlington, Middlesborough, Hartlepool, Stockton on Tees and Redcar and Cleveland
Source:
Housing Corporation

Local Government

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice and guidance she has circulated to local authority chief executives on how they should conduct themselves in respect of their public statements when contentious restructuring proposals are under debate; and if she will make a statement. [134089]

Mr. Woolas: Within the statutory framework, including the requirements under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 restricting certain officers' party political activities, the conduct of chief executives is a matter for them and their councils.

Officials wrote to all chief executives in areas affected by the 16 unitary proposals under consultation, drawing their attention to the "Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity". The code makes it clear that local authorities should not at any time use public funds to mount publicity campaigns whose primary purpose is to persuade the public to hold a particular view on a question of policy, and that authorities must take particular care when publicity is issued immediately prior to an election.

Local Government Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2239W, on local government finance, in which years since 1997 the Government were required to make up a shortfall on local authority housing revenue accounts between total rental income and the sources of expenditure to which the answer refers. [133352]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The Housing Revenue Subsidy System has received a net contribution from the Exchequer in each financial year since 2001-02, when the Major Repairs Allowance was introduced to help councils do more to repair and refurbish council homes.

The net subsidy position for each year between 1997-98 and 2005-06 (the last year for which we have audited figures) is given in the following table, negative figures represent net surpluses for that year and positive figures show net deficits, which were paid by the Exchequer.

	£ *Net housing element*
1997-98	-668,307,497
1998-99	-869,992,311
1999-2000	-1,040,869,030
2000-01	-1,116,331,437
2001-02	351,105,009
2002-03	252,059,142
2003-04	191,153,240
2004-05	78,877,384
2005-06	229,558,982

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's allocation was for local authorities' allowances for management, maintenance and major repairs in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; what they are projected to be in 2007-08; and what the total (i) service debt charges and (ii) rental income paid to local authorities were in each year. [133360]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* Details of management, maintenance and major repairs allowances are given in the following table:

Status	*Financial year*	*Management allowance*	*Maintenance allowance*	£ *Major repairs allowance*
Audited	2005-06	1,168,254,149	2,052,043,828	1,357,380,814
Provisional	2006-07	1,207,333,911	2,119,654,860	1,313,506,485
Estimated	2007-08	1,253,322,310	2,203,103,351	1,351,978,810

Data on actual rental income and expenditure on debt charges are only available for 2005-06 as these are dependent upon audited returns from local authorities and are shown as follows.

	Amount (£)
Debt charges	3,013,330,952
Rental income from dwellings	6,019,037,529
Other rental income	189,132,296

Audited returns for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are not due until December 2007 and December 2008 respectively.

Natural Gas: Pipelines

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to reduce the length of time taken to commission the construction of gas infrastructure

projects following initial planning application prior to the implementation of the measures expected in the Planning White Paper. [133475]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the reply recently given to him by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1073-74.

The time taken to commission gas infrastructure projects following the initial planning application can be affected by a range of factors—including commercial or technical issues which are for developers themselves to resolve.

The Government have implemented measures to avoid unnecessary delays at the planning application stage in dealing with major infrastructure projects under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. These could, depending on individual circumstances, include gas infrastructure projects. Section 44 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 inserted new sections 76A and 76B into the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to allow the Secretary of State to designate a planning application a major infrastructure project if she thinks it is of national or regional importance. If such is done, the application would be processed via special procedures which are aimed at speeding up the decision making process.

The forthcoming Planning White Paper, to be published this spring, will set out proposals for reforming the consent regime for major infrastructure projects, including major energy projects.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the length of time taken for *(a)* planning decisions and *(b)* other stages of gas infrastructure projects following initial planning applications. [133533]

Yvette Cooper: Since the beginning of the year, the Department has received a parliamentary question about delays in decision making following planning inquiries for gas storage infrastructure and one about the steps being taken to ensure the timely delivery of gas infrastructure projects.

Delays in decision making in these cases can often be attributed to their extremely unusual, technical and complex nature. But the Government are committed to streamlining and simplifying the regulatory regime for approving infrastructure projects, and proposals for doing so will be contained in the forthcoming Planning White Paper, to be published in the spring.

Owner Occupation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the level of owner occupation is in each constituency. [132249]

Yvette Cooper: Levels of owner occupation by constituency, derived from the 2001 Census, are contained in a House of Commons Research Paper 04/01 entitled "2001 Census of Population: Statistics for Parliamentary Constituencies", published 30 January 2004.

Planning Permission: Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the impact on Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club of further delays in announcing a decision on its planning application for a community stadium at Falmer; and what the latest date is by which a decision on the matter will be announced. [132905]

Meg Munn: Following the quashing of the original decision on this case in the High Court, representations were sought on a range of issues from interested parties. A number of those representations address the impact on the football club of the lack of a final decision.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State set out her target for making a final decision on this case in her letter of 2 March. That date is 9 July, and there are no plans to amend that date.

Recycling: Birmingham

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the best value performance indicators were for kerbside collection of recyclables for Birmingham for each year since 2004-05; whether the authority is on target to comply with provisions in the Household Waste Recycling Act 2003; and what the figures are for *(a)* other Metropolitan authorities and *(b)* the best performing local authorities. [133022]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

The best value performance indicator (BVPI) for kerbside collection of recyclables was measured by BVPI 91 in 2004-05. In that year, Birmingham city council reported that 80.6 per cent of its household residents were served by a kerbside recycling collection.

BVPI 91 was revised in 2005-06 to BVPI 91 a and BVPI 91 b, which measure the percentage of household residents served by kerbside recycling collection of *(a)* one or more recyclables and *(b)* at least two recyclables.

In 2005-6, Birmingham city council reported that 90.0 per cent. of its household residents were served by kerbside recycling collection of one or more recyclables. 12.2 per cent. were served by collection of two or more recyclables.

Results for BVPI 91 a and BVPI 91 b for 2005-06 for all Metropolitan districts with collection responsibilities are in the following table:

Metropolitan District	*BV 91 a*	*BV 91 b*
Barnsley	98.0	98.0
Birmingham	90.0	12.2
Bolton	96.9	96.9
Bradford	100.0	52.0
Bury	98.0	67.3
Calderdale	95.4	95.0
Coventry	84.2	71.0
Doncaster	98.8	98.8
Dudley	88.0	88.0

Metropolitan District	BV 91 a	BV 91 b
Gateshead	94.5	94.3
Kirklees	88.7	88.7
Knowsley	95.8	95.8
Leeds	90.1	90.1
Liverpool	91.8	91.8
Manchester	83.0	83.0
Newcastle upon Tyne	89.2	89.2
North Tyneside	98.9	98.9
Oldham	95.0	95.0
Rochdale	94.4	94.2
Rotherham	100.0	100.0
Salford	99.5	99.5
Sandwell	85.4	84.5
Sefton	97.0	97.0
Sheffield	89.8	20.7
Solihull	100.0	85.7
South Tyneside	97.5	97.0
St Helens	100.0	100.0
Stockport	94.9	94.7
Sunderland	98.8	97.3
Tameside	100.0	89.1
Trafford	100.0	86.0
Wakefield City	96.7	42.9
Walsall	95.5	95.5
Wigan	99.5	29.1
Wirral	100.0	65.8
Wolverhampton	88.5	88.5

In 2005-06, two Metropolitan districts, Rotherham and St Helens, reported that 100 per cent. of household residents were served by kerbside recycling collection of two or more recyclables. For the same period, 125 of authorities (35.4 per cent.) with waste collection responsibilities reported the same level of kerbside collection in England.

Under the Household Waste Recycling Act 2003, all local authorities in England are required to collect at least two types of recyclable waste from all households in their area by the end of 2010. It is up to each local authority to plan how it fulfils this requirement.

Regeneration: Finance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much regeneration money has been spent in each constituency since 1997; and what studies have been undertaken to gauge its effectiveness. [134035]

Mr. Woolas: The Department does not record information on regeneration spending by parliamentary constituency and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We are committed to understanding the effectiveness of our regeneration programmes and have commissioned a wide range of evaluations in support of this. Evaluations completed or underway include the single regeneration budget, coalfields regeneration programmes, housing market renewal pathfinders and the new deal for communities.

Details of research and evaluation commissioned by Communities and Local Government are available from our research management database (RMD) at: http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk.

Temporary Accommodation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary's statement on 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 288WH, on households in temporary accommodation, what discussions her Department has had with the Department of Work and Pensions on extending the pilot Working Future scheme for homeless families. [133731]

Yvette Cooper: Working Future is a pilot led by the Greater London Authority and East Thames Group testing the use of a central block grant to subsidise the cost of procuring temporary accommodation in the private sector, which also promotes affordable rents and allows increased access to employment services and training opportunities for 100 households in three London boroughs. There is ongoing dialogue between my Department and the Department of Work and Pensions regarding 'Working Future'. An evaluation is under way, the result of which will feed into future policy development in this area.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will break down by area of expenditure the costs associated with the pilot Working Future scheme for homeless families. [133732]

Yvette Cooper: Households participating in Working Future pay an affordable rent based on the average weekly council rent for the area, the cost of which is met through housing benefit. The remaining housing costs, which reflect the higher rental and management costs associated with temporary accommodation, are funded separately through a direct central Governmentgrant. £2.28 million was made available at the start of the pilot. CLG provided an additional £60,000 in 2006-07 to fund support services to increase employability among homeless households placed in the subsidised temporary accommodation. 'Working Future is a pilot led by the Greater London Authority and East Thames Group and these and other partner bodies have also contributed.

Urban Areas: Trees

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the loss of street trees was in urban areas in each of the last 10 years. [133405]

Yvette Cooper: A survey of trees in urban areas in England carried out in 2004-05 indicated an overall increase in the number of street trees compared with the situation in 1992. The report of the survey 'Trees in Towns II' produced by ADAS and Myerscough College will be published shortly. Copies will be deposited in the House Library.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to preserve street trees in cities. [133406]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities are encouraged to produce tree strategies to promote the planting, maintenance and protection of trees in their areas,

including street trees and to use current best practice. Local authorities also have powers to make tree preservation orders to protect trees where it is considered expedient in the interests of amenity.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to ensure the implementation by local authorities of the European Landscape Convention, in particular Articles 5(b), 5(c) and Article 6, in relation to street trees. [133407]

Yvette Cooper: National planning policies, including Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development, already recognise the need to provide appropriate protection and enhancement of urban landscapes, which will include street trees, in England, in line with the principal aims of the European Landscape Convention.

Written Questions

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to the question 126225, from the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes, tabled on 5 March, on planning in Milton Keynes. [134187]

Yvette Cooper: I replied to question 126225 on 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1190-91W.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Childbirth

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many births in Northern Ireland in the last year were to mothers aged *(a)* 17 years, *(b)* 16 years, *(c)* 15 years and *(d)* under 15 years of age, broken down by health board area. [133915]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the number of live- and still-births[1] registered in 2006[3] by age and Health and Social Services Board[2] of residence of mother.

Mother's age	Eastern HSSB	Northern HSSB	Southern HSSB	Western HSSB	Northern Ireland
Under 15 years	4	2	0	1	7
15	11	12	4	2	29
16	59	33	11	10	113
17	114	53	38	52	257

[1] Birth is defined to be either live- or still-birth. Pregnancies which resulted in the birth of twins, triplets or other multiple births are counted twice, three times, etc.
[2] Births have been allocated to the area of usual residence of the mother based on her postcode. The data include only those births to mothers resident in Northern Ireland at the time of birth.
[3] Provisional data.

Down District Council: Recruitment

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many positions have been advertised by Down district council in the last 12 months; and what the religion was of those subsequently appointed to those positions. [133872]

David Cairns: Employment policies and procedures are matters for each individual council. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Down district council to respond direct to the hon. Lady.

Further Education: Internet

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which further education colleges in Northern Ireland offer on-line courses. [133897]

Maria Eagle: Although it is not mandatory for further education colleges in Northern Ireland to offer on-line courses, all 16 further education colleges, to a greater or lesser degree, offer on-line learning in some courses. Access to on-line or blended learning and the number of courses for which it is available, varies extensively across the 16 colleges.

Northern Ireland Government; Artefacts

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the whereabouts are of the Black Rod of the former Senate of Northern Ireland Parliament. [134254]

Mr. Hanson: Black Rod's Wand is the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Assembly and is stored in the Artefact's Store in Parliament Buildings. A catalogue of Parliament Buildings artefacts is available from the Office of the Keeper.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland where the Maces of the former Northern Ireland *(a)* House of Commons and *(b)* Senate is; and if he will make a statement. [134256]

Mr. Hanson: The pair of silver maces from the Commons and Senate, London 1924 that were presented to the Northern Ireland Assembly are stored in the Artefact's Store in Parliament Buildings.

Paper: Recycling

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the 12 month pilot project which began on 1 April 2006 involving the use by all Departments in Northern Ireland of photocopying paper manufactured from a minimum of 70 per cent. post-consumer waste. [133916]

Mr. Hanson: An initial assessment of the outcome of the 12 month pilot project, which began on 1 April 2006, is currently under way and will be presented to the Northern Ireland Procurement Board at its next meeting in late May.

I will forward the hon. Gentleman a copy of this paper for information following its consideration by the Procurement Board.

Church Leaders

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions in the last 12 months the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service has met leaders of *(a)* the Presbyterian Church, *(b)*

the Roman Catholic Church, *(c)* the Church of Ireland, *(d)* the Methodist Church, *(e)* the Baptist Union of Ireland, *(f)* the Free Presbyterian Church, *(g)* the Elim Pentecostal Church, *(h)* the Reformed Presbyterian Church *(i)* the Congregational Union of Ireland, *(j)* the Evangelical Alliance *(k)* Evangelical Continuation in Northern Ireland and *(l)* the Caleb Foundation. [132888]

Mr. Hanson: The Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service has had no formal meetings with the leaders of these churches and organisations in the last 12 months. He has met once with the Churches Forum, which has representatives from the Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland and Methodist Church, and he also attended a number of other events with church leaders, including a dinner to mark the retirement of Archbishop Robin Eames and the enthronement of Archbishop Alan Harper. He would be willing to meet representatives of any of the churches and organisations listed, if requested.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Bankruptcy

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many individuals applied for individual voluntary arrangements in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [134479]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no published statistics on the number of individuals who have applied for an individual voluntary arrangement. However there are published statistics for the numbers of individual voluntary arrangements approved by creditors for the last five years and they show

	IVAs
2002	6,295
2003	7,583
2004	10,752
2005	20,293
2006	44,332

Employment: West Midlands

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 658W, on MG Rover, in which sectors the 100,000 jobs have been created; what the locations are of the 1,000 hectares of brownfield land which have been reclaimed; and what initiatives *(a)* Advantage West Midlands, *(b)* the Learning and Skills Council and *(c)* Birmingham City Council have put in place to assist unemployed former employees of MG Rover and its suppliers. [124757]

Margaret Hodge: Advantage West Midlands does not collect data in the form asked. The agency does have data which disaggregate the jobs total by whether they are jobs in rural, urban or disadvantaged areas but these data are only available from 2005-06 onwards. The sector data are not available and to disaggregate the totals by sector can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Similarly the total figure of 1,000 hectares of brownfield land which have been reclaimed cannot be disaggregated in the way requested, except at disproportionate cost.

AWM is able to account for 459 hectares of brownfield sites reclaimed since 2003. The remaining 541 hectares were acquired through legacy projects funded by other agencies and programmes, such as the SRB programme and English Partnership.

MG Rover

Following the highly successful work of the MG Rover Task Force over 95 per cent. of ex-MG Rover employees are now back in work. The remaining 260 job seekers are able to access a number of initiatives delivered in partnership by AWM, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Birmingham city council. These are:

- South West Business Connections, led by Birmingham city council
- Work for you Project—Partnership project between AWM and Birmingham city council
- Working for jobs—initiative involving AWM, LSC and Job Centre Plus
- Northfield and Longbridge Uplift Project—led by Birmingham city council

Post Offices: Closures

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what methods will be used to determine those post offices which will qualify for the closure compensation package being offered should more than 2,500 post offices apply. [134208]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following the Government's final decisions, it will be for Post Office Ltd. to develop local area plans for proposals for closures and other changes in service provision on a strategic basis within the framework set by Government. As outlined in the consultation document the closure programme will be a compulsory scheme.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his most recent estimate is of the number of post offices which will close. [134209]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As outlined in the Government's proposals, compensated closures will be limited to a maximum of 2,500 post offices nationally.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the reasons are for the deferral of publication of the Government's conclusions on the response to the consultation on the closures within the Post Office network. [134210]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department received over 2,500 responses to the public consultation which formally closed on 8 March. We are giving full consideration to the comments submitted and hope to be in a position to announce final decisions in May.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bees

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what resources are committed by his Department to survey for bee colony collapse disorder. [133319]

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department is monitoring colony collapse disorder in honey bees in *(a)* the US and *(b)* Germany; [133303]

(2) what research is being supported by the Government into the threat to UK honey bee colonies of colony collapse; [133304]

(3) what steps his Department is considering to prevent the importation of honey bee colonies from countries where incidents of colony collapse disorder have been recorded. [133305]

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to fund research into the potential emergence of colony collapse disorder in the UK's honey bee colonies. [133632]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA is aware of the press reports about the situation in the USA in respect of the widespread loss of bees described as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). Reports of high colony losses have come from at least 22 states.

In the UK, scientists and inspectors at the National Bee Unit (NBU) are monitoring the situation, and are in contact with experts in the USA and in Europe to learn the latest results of research into abnormal colony mortality. The NBU has taken samples for further analysis from the few apiaries in England and Wales found this spring with unusually high colony loss for which there is no readily identifiable cause. This work will help the NBU ascertain whether there is a common cause for such losses.

The DEFRA budget for bee health research and development in 2006-07 is £200,000, which is comparable to previous years, and covers work on all pests and diseases of bees. If findings in the US or elsewhere identify a research need in the UK, the necessary resources would be found as part of our contingency response to emerging new threats.

Colony loss is known in Europe, but there is currently no reason to link high colony losses in the USA to the situation in Europe. Recent cases in Spain and Portugal seem likely to have been caused by *Nosema ceranae*, a spore-forming protozoan that invades the digestive tracts of bees, as well as the impact of varroa.

If a common cause for high colony loss in the USA is identified and it is pest or disease-related, it is unlikely to be imported here, as long as the rules restricting imports from third countries are respected. It is illegal to import bees from the mainland of the USA.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to increase the *(a)* speed and *(b)* accuracy of tests to determine the presence of bovine TB in cattle. [133154]

Mr. Bradshaw: The single intradermal comparative cervical tuberculin (SICCT) test, commonly known as the tuberculin "skin test", is the primary screening test for TB in cattle in Great Britain and other parts of the European Union (EU). The skin test is the internationally accepted standard for surveillance for infection with *Mycobacterium bovis*, and is considered the best screening test currently available for detecting TB in cattle. No diagnostic test is 100 per cent. accurate, but the current skin test is effective.

In October 2006, the Government extended the use of the gamma interferon blood test, alongside the skin test, to improve the sensitivity of the testing regime for controlling disease in infected herds by identifying more infected animals more quickly. It is being applied mainly in herds disclosing TB infection in low risk areas to help ensure infection does not become established in cattle or wildlife. It will also continue to be available for use as a disease control tool in areas of higher incidence.

In line with recommendations from the scientific community, DEFRA continues to fund further research into improved diagnostics for bovine TB.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the costs and benefits of local authorities reducing the collection of waste bins from domestic residences from once a week to once a fortnight or longer. [133669]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 80W.

Fisheries

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether proposed changes to the number and boundaries of sea fisheries committees may proceed only *(a)* after consultation with and *(b)* with the support of home sea fisheries committees affected by the proposals. [133771]

Mr. Bradshaw: As outlined in the current Marine Bill White Paper, I have asked my officials to undertake a review of the number and boundaries of Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) in England and to pursue measures in the Marine Bill to implement any change. The review will take place later this year in consultation with the SFCs, the fishing industry and with other interested parties. I will examine the outcome of that review before deciding on any changes to the number and boundaries of SFCs in England.

Fisheries: Manpower

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the number of fishermen working *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time in the UK in each month since January 2006, broken down by region. [133058]

Mr. Bradshaw: The latest year for which information on the number of fishermen is available is 2005. Details are in the following table.

Number of fishermen by district: 2005

	Regular	Part-time	Total
England and Wales			
North Eastern	666	32	698
Humberside	801	129	930
Eastern	473	65	538
South Eastern	1,235	47	1,282
South Western	949	71	1,020
Western	1,050	261	1,311
North Western	56	141	197
Wales	796	335	1,131
Total	6,026	1,081	7,107
Scotland			
Eyemouth	152	16	168
Pittenweem	107	35	142
Aberdeen	91	72	163
Peterhead	273	0	273
Fraserburgh	614	150	764
Buckie	227	21	248
Scrabster and Wick	157	0	157
Orkney	284	51	335
Shetland	304	147	451
Stornoway	238	249	487
Kinlochbervie	41	2	43
Lochinver	35	10	45
Ullapool	74	6	80
Mallaig and Portree	268	113	381
Oban	163	81	244
Campbeltown	256	69	325
Ayr	529	136	665
Total	3,813	1,158	4,971
Northern Ireland			
North Coast	20	5	25
Kilkeel	255	25	280
Portavogie	154	20	174
Ardglass	85	5	90
Total	514	55	569
United Kingdom	10,353	2,294	12,647

Fly Tipping: Bournemouth

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in Bournemouth in each of the last four years. [132398]

Mr. Bradshaw: Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database was set up in 2004 by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association, to record fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities. Data are therefore only available from April 2004 onwards.

Numbers of incidents reported in Bournemouth, in years for which data are available, are shown in the following table:

Bournemouth borough council

	Total number of incidents
2004-05	1,479
2005-06	1,784

Data for 2006-2007 are not yet available but will be published this summer.

Graffiti

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on removing graffiti in each local authority area in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [134216]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held by my Department. Local authorities (LAs) do not have a duty to clear graffiti and so do not receive funding for its clearance.

Under sections 48-52 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, LAs can issue a Defacement Removal Notice on the owners, occupiers and operators of land and buildings owned by a statutory undertaker or educational institution and which are accessible or visible to the public. These notices can also be served on objects in or on the public street such as cable boxes, telephone kiosks and bus stops. Once served, the company or statutory undertaker has 28 days to remove the defacement. If the defacement has not been removed after this time, the LA can remove it itself and recover the costs of doing so. LAs are required to make reasonable attempts to enter into partnership with the property owners before issuing any notices under sections 48-52.

Livestock: Disease Control

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much livestock was ordered to be slaughtered by his Department in each year since May 1997 *(a)* with and *(b)* without compensation. [133378]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the number of livestock slaughtered for disease control purposes, and the amount of compensation paid, is available in the Chief Veterinary Officer's Reports. These are available in tables which have been placed in the Library.

Shellfish

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect on marine conservation of the banning of the landing of berried lobsters. [133770]

Mr. Bradshaw: Scientific studies suggest that a ban on the landing of berried lobsters and an increase in the Minimum Landing Size (MLS), if equally complied with, would provide similar conservation benefits. However, a ban on the taking of berried lobsters would be almost impossible to enforce, and we know it is likely to be widely ignored. Its potential contribution to lobster conservation may therefore not be realized.

As a MLS can be more effectively enforced and very difficult to ignore, I chose to investigate this option in the interests of getting effective conservation results. We have recently completed a consultation on proposals for increasing the MLS for lobsters and will announce the conclusions from it in the near future.

Waste Disposal: Lighting

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance has been issued to local authorities on disposal of long life bulbs; and whether these bulbs contain mercury. [132584]

Mr. Bradshaw: Energy efficient light bulbs contain a small amount of mercury (less than 5 milligrams per lamp) and are therefore classified as hazardous waste. They should be disposed of responsibly by local authorities (LAs) and in accordance with waste regulations.

From 1 July this year, long life bulbs, where collected with other waste electrical equipment, will need to be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations. LAs that register their civic amenity sites as designated collection facilities (DCFs) for WEEE will be entitled to free collection from those sites by producer compliance schemes. Once these bulbs are collected, producers will be responsible for their treatment and recycling. Guidance on the WEEE regulations, including on how LAs can register their sites as DCFs, is available from the Department for Trade and Industry. Guidance on the WEEE treatment requirements was issued by DEFRA in November 2006.

There is increasing evidence that the mercury in each energy efficient bulb is considerably outweighed by the mercury put into the atmosphere through the additional electricity generation required to operate a traditional bulb.

Senior Civil Servants

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the staff turnover rate for senior grade civil servants within the *(a)* Waste Strategy Division and *(b)* Waste Management Division was in the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [132275]

Barry Gardiner: The staff turnover rate for senior civil servants within the stated Divisions are as follows:

Waste Strategy Division

	Number
(i) Last 12 months	1
(ii) Last five years	2

Waste Management Division

	Number
(i) Last 12 months	0
(ii) Last five years	

Whales: Conservation

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to oppose the lifting of the moratorium on commercial whaling; and if he will write in opposition to lifting of the ban to his counterparts in *(a)* Denmark, *(b)* other member Governments of the European Union, *(c)* St. Lucia, *(d)* St. Vincent and The Grenadines, *(e)* Antigua and Barbuda, *(f)* Dominica, *(g)* Grenada, *(h)* St. Kitts and Nevis, *(i)* Solomon Islands, *(j)* Belize, *(k)* Toralu, *(l)* Kinibati, *(m)* The Gambia, *(n)* Cameroon and Nauru, *(o)* other Commonwealth members of the International Whaling Commission and *(p)* other members of the International Whaling Commission. [131144]

Mr. Bradshaw: The UK will continue to protest at the highest diplomatic level against the resumption of commercial whaling and we will continue our efforts, along with other countries, to urge those countries that support whaling to reconsider their position.

DEFRA officials ensure that Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts in the relevant capitals are briefed, and engage in discussion with their counterparts on whaling at every appropriate opportunity. This ensures that these countries are in no doubt of the importance that the UK attaches to whale conservation. UK embassies and Ministers across Government will continue to lobby on this issue in the run-up to the next annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Alaska in May.

HOME DEPARTMENT

DNA Database

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam, of 16 October 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1042-44W, on the DNA database; if he will break down the information given by police force area. [130339]

John Reid: The information requested is shown in the following tables:

Table 1: Breakdown of 124,347 CJ arrestee records on the national DNA database by ethnic appearance

	6+1 ethnic appearance rating					
Force	*White European*	*Dark European*	*Afro-Caribbean*	*Asian*	*Oriental*	*Arab*
Avon and Somerset	296	10	65	27	3	14
Bedfordshire	52	2	14	23	—	—
Cambridgeshire	1,363	45	95	91	15	37
Cheshire	1,447	22	15	23	3	9
City of London	34	5	20	18	1	—
Cleveland	571	2	9	23	7	3
Cumbria	1,833	7	8	16	8	3
Derbyshire	2,526	42	115	149	10	25
Devon and Cornwall	111	1	—	—	—	1
Dorset	1,607	36	45	43	23	29
Durham	660	—	1	1	1	2
Dyfed Powys	1,653	23	11	31	11	11
Essex	4,320	106	346	123	45	20
Gloucestershire	1,674	19	95	41	9	4
GMP	6,385	94	560	814	68	115
Gwent	409	5	7	6	—	4
Hampshire	3,390	43	101	101	30	46
Hertfordshire	3,484	103	352	311	34	29
Humberside	22	—	1	—	—	3
Kent	5,617	172	286	217	62	74
Lancashire	3,933	44	67	461	13	26
Leicestershire	1,812	50	215	480	18	51
Lincolnshire	1,360	10	24	24	6	8
Merseyside	330	1	2	1	1	—
MPS	5,366	828	4,265	1,550	493	362
Norfolk	499	16	19	3	1	3
North Wales	1,560	20	15	15	6	7
North Yorkshire	1,248	9	19	21	1	5
Northamptonshire	475	17	47	19	—	—
Northumbria	790	8	7	13	2	5
Nottinghamshire	1,217	7	77	49	4	5
South Wales	1,810	14	59	56	4	18
South Yorkshire	3,510	74	204	254	19	103
Staffordshire	3,879	39	142	259	17	24
Suffolk	92	2	4	2	—	1
Surrey	1,429	39	116	146	37	33
Sussex	3,067	72	212	177	40	63
Thames Valley	178	4	33	23	2	—
Warwickshire	257	3	16	20	1	2
West Mercia	6	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	5,864	148	1,355	1,778	46	175
West Yorkshire	2,132	18	165	444	8	21
Wiltshire	1,286	25	47	36	16	7
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	79,349	2,183	9,208	7,889	1,067	1,370

	Visual appearance code				
Force	*White*	*Non-white*	*Unknown*	*No trace*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	16	8	14	—	453
Bedfordshire	108	55	4	—	258
Cambridgeshire	429	87	666	—	2,818
Cheshire	5	3	3	—	1,529
City of London	22	13	11	—	124
Cleveland	17	4	3	—	639
Cumbria	172	3	6	—	2,056
Derbyshire	40	33	10	—	2,950
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	113
Dorset	7	2	10	1	1,799
Durham	721	11	373	—	1,770
Dyfed Powys	11	—	6	1	1,756
Essex	551	84	13	—	5,608
Gloucestershire	28	9	17	—	1,896
GMP	124	11	83	1	8,255
Gwent	5	—	1	—	437
Hampshire	35	29	9	—	3,784
Hertfordshire	46	14	17	1	4,391
Humberside	3	4	16	—	49
Kent	406	100	21	1	6,916
Lancashire	235	20	68	—	4,869
Leicestershire	15	30	4	—	2,675
Lincolnshire	23	9	12	2	1,476
Merseyside	172	7	5	—	319
MPS	4,935	6,195	780	2	24,776
Norfolk	82	3	4	—	630
North Wales	125	5	149	—	1,911
North Yorkshire	15	2	224	—	1,544
Northamptonshire	5	—	139	—	702
Northumbria	853	40	28	—	1,746
Nottinghamshire	215	45	56	—	1,675
South Wales	9	4	12	—	1,992
South Yorkshire	725	193	15	2	5,099
Staffordshire	25	2	66	—	4,473
Suffolk	2	—	12	—	115
Surrey	6	6	4	—	1,838
Sussex	75	16	24	—	3,786
Thames Valley	134	50	[illegible]	—	439
Warwickshire	39	2	16	—	356
West Mercia	5	—	9	—	20
West Midlands	67	35	179	—	9,647
West Yorkshire	9	1	9	—	2,809
Wiltshire	6	22	13	—	1,438
Unknown	—	—	2,451	—	2,451
Total	10,522	7,155	5,593	11	124,347

Notes:
1. 5,604 records include no ethnic appearance information.
2. Total records relating to people arrested, sampled and not subsequently charged or cautioned for the arrest/sampling offence is 124,347.

Table 2: Number of records where a PNC record had been created prior to the arrest and NFA event

	6+1 ethnic appearance rating					
Force	*White European*	*Dark European*	*Afro-Caribbean*	*Asian*	*Oriental*	*Arab*
Avon and Somerset	46	2	10	1	—	—
Bedfordshire	20	1	7	6	—	—
Cambridgeshire	397	11	18	16	1	2
Cheshire	318	5	3	6	—	1

Table 2: Number of records where a PNC record had been created prior to the arrest and NFA event

	6+1 ethnic appearance rating					
Force	*White European*	*Dark European*	*Afro-Caribbean*	*Asian*	*Oriental*	*Arab*
City of London	5	2	3	2	—	—
Cleveland	581	1	2	5	—	—
Cumbria	528	4	1	6	1	2
Derbyshire	527	2	24	30	1	1
Devon and Cornwall	21	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	347	1	12	2	1	4
Durham	270	—	1	—	1	1
Dyfed-Powys	362	3	—	5	1	—
Essex	872	12	52	11	3	2
Gloucestershire	325	1	22	6	—	1
GMP	1,536	13	93	106	2	7
Gwent	109	1	1	2	—	—
Hampshire	715	2	12	11	—	3
Hertfordshire	650	7	62	26	—	2
Humberside	13	—	—	—	—	—
Kent	1,360	18	25	32	2	5
Lancashire	840	7	11	70	1	2
Leicestershire	428	8	28	67	2	1
Lincolnshire	356	2	3	2	1	1
Merseyside	65	1	—	—	—	—
MPS	1,662	168	932	273	33	54
Norfolk	120	—	4	1	—	1
North Wales	442	2	4	3	1	—
North Yorkshire	264	—	4	2	—	—
Northamptonshire	53	1	5	2	—	—
Northumbria	299	1	—	6	—	1
Nottinghamshire	335	2	21	10	—	—
South Wales	372	2	7	9	—	—
South Yorkshire	1,021	10	67	58	4	8
Staffordshire	911	8	29	36	1	1
Suffolk	19	—	—	1	—	—
Surrey	295	1	7	9	—	3
Sussex	660	9	22	13	—	8
Thames Valley	50	—	13	7	—	—
Warwickshire	76	—	2	3	—	—
West Mercia	5	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	1,227	17	221	241	3	8
West Yorkshire	440	4	25	46	—	—
Wiltshire	260	3	8	2	—	—
Unknown	1	—	1	1	1	1
Total	18,717	272	1,742	1,135	60	120

	Non-ethnic visual appearance code				
Force	*White*	*Non-white*	*Unknown*	*No trace*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	1	—	—	—	60
Bedfordshire	3	1	1	—	45
Cambridgeshire	51	4	6	—	508
Cheshire	1	—	—	—	334
City of London	5	—	—	—	17
Cleveland	9	—	1	—	178
Cumbria	4	—	1	—	547
Derbyshire	2	2	5	—	594
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	21
Dorset	—	—	—	—	360
Durham	32	—	3	—	307
Dyfed-Powys	5	—	0	1	377
Essex	33	1	1	—	987
Gloucestershire	4	—	—	—	361
GMP	102	4	28	—	1,891
Gwent	—	—	—	—	113
Hampshire	7	6	—	—	756
Hertfordshire	5	1	1	—	763
Humberside	1	—	—	—	14
Kent	28	3	3	—	1,485
Lancashire	214	17	29	—	1,191
Leicestershire	5	—	3	—	542
Lincolnshire	2	—	1	1	369
Merseyside	16	1	1	—	84
MPS	293	156	64	1	3,576
Norfolk	2	—	1	—	129
North Wales	26	1	5	—	484
North Yorkshire	11	—	2	—	283
Northamptonshire	4	—	—	—	65
Northumbria	29	1	2	—	339
Nottinghamshire	33	1	2	—	404
South Wales	7	—	—	—	397
South Yorkshire	20	5	3	1	1,176
Staffordshire	18	—	—	—	1,004
Suffolk	1	—	—	—	21
Surrey	3	—	—	—	278
Sussex	10	1	1	—	670
Thames Valley	10	2	5	—	87
Warwickshire	4	—	1	—	86
West Mercia	—	—	—	—	5
West Midlands	45	18	15	—	1,795
West Yorkshire	6	—	—	—	521
Wiltshire	5	2	1	—	281
Unknown	—	—	—	—	5
Total	1,098	227	184	4	23,519

Notes

1. NFA—means 'No Further Action' taken i.e. the person was arrested and subsequently not charged or cautioned in relation to the arrest/sampling offence.
2. This table shows the number of records where a PNC record had been created for the person before 31 December 2003. This indicates that these persons had previously been charged, reported for summons or sanctioned for at least one previous offence. Sanctions include convictions and cautions (including reprimands and final warnings).
3. Records where the individual was arrested after the 'arrest and NFA event' are not included.

Table 3: Number of records where a PNC record had not been created prior to the arrest and NFA event

	6+1 ethnic appearance rating					
Force	*White European*	*Dark European*	*Afro-Caribbean*	*Asian*	*Oriental*	*Arab*
Avon and Somerset	250	8	35	26	3	14
Bedfordshire	26	1	7	17	0	0
Cambridgeshire	966	34	67	75	14	35
Cheshire	1,129	17	12	17	3	7
City of London	29	3	17	16	1	0
Cleveland	410	1	7	18	7	3
Cumbria	1,305	3	7	10	7	1

Table 3: Number of records where a PNC record had not been created prior to the arrest and NFA event

	6+1 ethnic appearance rating					
Force	*White European*	*Dark European*	*Afro-Caribbean*	*Asian*	*Oriental*	*Arab*
Derbyshire	1,999	40	91	119	9	24
Devon and Cornwall	90	1	0	0	0	1
Dorset	1,260	33	33	41	22	25
Durham	390	0	0	1	0	1
Dyfed-Powys	1,291	18	11	26	10	11
Essex	3,448	94	294	112	42	18
Gloucestershire	1,349	16	73	35	9	3
GMP	4,849	81	467	708	66	108
Gwent	300	4	6	4	0	4
Hampshire	2,675	41	89	90	30	43
Hertfordshire	2,825	96	290	285	34	27
Humberside	9	0	1	0	0	3
Kent	4,248	154	221	185	60	69
Lancashire	3,093	37	56	391	14	24
Leicestershire	1,384	42	187	413	16	50
Lincolnshire	1,004	8	21	22	5	7
Merseyside	65	0	2	1	1	0
MPS	3,704	720	3,333	1,277	460	308
Norfolk	379	16	15	2	1	2
North Wales	1,127	18	11	12	5	7
North Yorkshire	984	9	15	19	1	5
Northamptonshire	422	16	42	17	0	0
Northumbria	491	7	7	7	2	4
Nottinghamshire	882	5	56	39	4	5
South Wales	1,444	12	52	47	4	18
South Yorkshire	2,489	64	157	196	15	95
Staffordshire	2,968	31	113	223	16	23
Suffolk	73	2	4	1	0	1
Surrey	1,174	38	111	137	37	50
Sussex	2,457	67	190	164	40	55
Thames Valley	128	4	22	16	2	0
Warwickshire	181	3	12	17	1	2
West Mercia	1	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	4,637	131	1,134	1,537	43	157
West Yorkshire	1,692	14	140	398	8	24
Wiltshire	1,006	22	39	34	16	7
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	60,633	1,911	7,467	6,755	1,008	1,251

	Non-ethnic visual appearance code				
Force	*White*	*Non-white*	*Unknown*	*No trace*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	15	8	14	0	393
Bedfordshire	105	54	3	0	213
Cambridgeshire	376	83	660	0	2,310
Cheshire	4	5	3	0	1,195
City of London	17	13	11	0	107
Cleveland	9	4	2	0	461
Cumbria	148	3	5	0	1,509
Derbyshire	38	31	5	0	2,356
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	92
Dorset	3	2	10	1	1,430
Durham	689	11	371	0	1,463
Dyfed-Powys	6	0	6	0	1,379
Essex	518	83	12	0	4,621
Gloucestershire	24	9	17	0	1,535
GMP	22	7	55	0	6,363
Gwent	5	0	1	0	324
Hampshire	28	23	9	0	3,028
Hertfordshire	41	13	16	1	3,628
Humberside	2	4	16	0	35
Kent	378	97	18	1	5,431
Lancashire	21	3	39	0	3,678
Leicestershire	10	30	1	0	2,133
Lincolnshire	21	7	11	1	1,107
Merseyside	156	6	4	0	235
MPS	4,642	6,039	716	1	21,200
Norfolk	80	3	3	0	501
North Wales	99	4	144	0	1,427
North Yorkshire	4	2	222	0	1,261
Northamptonshire	1	0	139	0	637
Northumbria	824	39	26	0	1,407
Nottinghamshire	182	44	54	0	1,271
South Wales	2	4	12	0	1,595
South Yorkshire	705	188	13	1	3,923
Staffordshire	7	2	86	0	3,469
Suffolk	5	0	12	0	94
Surrey	3	6	4	0	1,560
Sussex	65	15	23	0	3,076
Thames Valley	128	48	4	0	352
Warwickshire	35	2	17	0	270
West Mercia	5	0	9	0	15
West Midlands	22	17	164	0	7,852
West Yorkshire	2	1	9	0	2,288
Wiltshire	1	20	12	0	1,157
Unknown	—	—	2,447	—	2,447
Total	9,464	6,928	5,405	6	100,828

Notes:
1. NFA—means 'No Further Action' taken i.e. the person was arrested and subsequently not charged or cautioned in relation to the arrest/sampling offence.
2. This table shows the number of records where a PNC record had not been created for the person before 31 December 2003. This indicates that these persons had not previously been charged, reported for summons or sanctioned for an offence. Sanctions include convictions and cautions (including reprimands and final warnings). In these cases, the arrest and NFA event is likely to be the first time an individual came to police attention.
3. Records where the individual was arrested after the 'arrest and NFA event' are not included.

Drink Driving: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of drink driving were recorded in each London borough in year since 1997. [132923]

Mr. Coaker: Incidents of drink driving are not recorded centrally as the summary offences of 'driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs' do not form part of the recorded crime series.

Available information on the number of convictions at all courts and those dealt with by written warning, taken from the annual Home Office publication "Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales Supplementary tables", for the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas, from 1997 to 2004 (latest available) are given in the table.

Data are not available at London borough level. 2005 data will be available later this year.

Number of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] offences found guilty at all courts or dealt with by written warning within the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas, 1997-2004

Number of offences

Police force area/police action	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Metropolitan police total findings of guilt at all courts	16,165	13,889	12,414	11,801	11,260	12,905	12,621	13,227
Written warnings	18	39	17	7	6	0	5	0
Total	16,183	13,928	12,431	11,808	11,266	12,905	12,626	13,227
City of London total findings of guilt at all courts	436	301	236	162	162	221	230	169
Written warnings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	436	301	236	162	162	221	230	169

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system currently being implemented by the Department for Constitutional Affairs reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Golden Arrow Communications

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings his Department's Ministers have held with representatives of Golden Arrow Communications over the last 12 months. [134244]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. and learned Gentleman to my answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1443W.

Manpower: Home Office

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which committees and working groups in his Department assess the capacity of prisons in England and Wales. [133423]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The operational capacity of individual prisons is assessed and agreed on behalf of the Secretary of State by Area Managers and the Director of High Security Prisons (within public sector prisons) and by Regional Offender Managers and the Head of the National Commissioner's Support Bureau (within private prisons).

Prisoner Transfers

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average number of transfers from one prison to another was per prisoner in the last year for which figures are available; [133278]

(2) how many and what percentage of prisoners were transferred from one prison to another *(a)* once, *(b)* twice, *(c)* three times, *(d)* four times, *(e)* five times, *(f)* six times, *(g)* seven times and *(h)* eight times or more in the last year for which figures are available. [133279]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally.

Prisoners: British Nationality

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* British nationals were in prison abroad and *(b)* non-EU nationals were imprisoned in the UK in each of the last five years. [132745]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures on the numbers of both non-European Union prisoners held in prison establishments in England and Wales and the numbers of new detentions of British nationals held in prisons abroad can be found in the table. The Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Prison Service respectively hold information on prison numbers in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The figures on the numbers of British nationals detained in foreign prisons were taken from the answer given by my hon. Friend, Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Clegg) to his question on 16 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 999W. As at 30 September 2006, we were aware of 2,421 British nationals in detention overseas, either on remand or serving a custodial sentence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Non-EU foreign nationals in prisons in England and Wales

30 June:	*Number*
2002	6,248
2003	7,359
2004	7,043
2005	7,639
2006	8,554

British nationals in prison abroad[1]

	Number
2001	7,861
2002	6,501
2003-04	6,744
2004-05	5,227
2005-06	4,814

[1]These are the number of new detentions of British nationals each year, not the numbers held at any given date. The following is a link to show European Union membership http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1139991776735

Prisoners: Suicide

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the incidence of suicide and self-harm has been for prisoners serving indeterminate public protection sentences. [133784]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The exact information about indeterminate public protection sentenced prisoners has not been collated in the requested format and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many self-inflicted deaths have occurred in prisons since January 2006. [133976]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of self-inflicted deaths in prisons between 1 January 2006 and 24 April 2007 is 97.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact of a switch from soft to hard drugs testing on positive mandatory drug testing rates in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [132974]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The standard group of drugs covered by mandatory drug testing in prisons remains as it was when the programme was introduced in 1995. There has been no switch from soft to hard drugs testing.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the accuracy of mandatory drug testing exercises within prison establishments as a measure of the extent of drug usage in prisons; and if he will make a statement. [132977]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The mandatory drug testing programme provides the best measure of the level of drug misuse. Research conducted by the Office for National Statistics published in January 2005 found that mandatory drug testing provides a good indication of patterns and levels of drug misuse over time particularly at a national and regional level or prison category type.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons there is no key performance target for targeted mandatory drug tests for prison establishments; and if he will make a statement. [132985]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All prisons carry out targeted mandatory drug tests. In order to allow prisons to target testing flexibly to meet local circumstances no key performance target has been set.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Serious Fraud

21. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Solicitor-General if he will assess the merits of introducing plea bargaining in serious fraud cases. [133949]

The Solicitor-General: When the Government responded to the recommendations of the Fraud Review on 15 March 2007, they indicated that a working group would be established to explore how far it was possible to introduce a framework for plea negotiations in the context of the criminal courts in England and Wales. The group is scheduled to start its work next month, and a symposium chaired by the Attorney-General will be held on 30 April to explore some of the issues.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Solicitor-General what role he plans for plea bargaining in combating fraud following the fraud review. [133950]

The Solicitor-General: The Government have accepted the recommendations of the Fraud Review that further consideration should be given to the means by which we might introduce a framework for plea negotiations/plea bargaining into our criminal justice system. A working group is being established to engage in detailed consideration of the issues which need to be resolved.

Human Trafficking

23. **Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Crown Prosecution Service is taking to improve prosecution rates in cases of alleged human trafficking. [133951]

The Solicitor-General: Since the introduction of human trafficking offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 the number of prosecutions brought to court has increased from 16 in 2004-05 to 116 in 2006-07.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) can only prosecute those cases which are referred to it by investigators. The CPS is working with colleagues in the Home Office to strengthen and improve investigation, law enforcement and the prosecution process against those who commit human trafficking offences.

The UK Action Plan on tackling human trafficking, which was published on 23 March 2007, recognises the need to ensure that human trafficking becomes part of 'core' police business by improving the capability of the police and their partners. Actions include the development of 'key diagnostic indicators' to measure performance and progress in dealing with human trafficking issues.

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) is now recognised as the central point for

the development of law enforcement expertise. The CPS is working closely with the UKHTC in developing and taking forward training packages and courses for police, other law enforcement agencies and Crown prosecutors. Training, together with the development of an early victim identification toolkit for front-line police and immigration officers, will enable identification of trafficked victims at the earliest opportunity. This should prevent potential trafficked victims who have committed immigration offences from being removed before providing information or intelligence to investigators.

Crown Prosecution Service: Freemasonry

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Solicitor-General what provisions exist for legally qualified staff in the Crown Prosecution Service to declare freemasonry membership on appointment. [133301]

The Solicitor-General: None.

Fraud: Victims

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps he is taking to ensure that lessons about how to ensure justice for victims of fraud are learned from recent prosecutions. [133946]

The Solicitor-General: My hon. Friend has drawn my attention to a recent case involving two constituents which raises issues about the way our current provisions for dealing with confiscation and compensate operate.

The Fraud Review, commissioned by the Government in 2005, conducted a short survey of fraud victims from a random selection of City of London prosecutions. It was apparent from the survey that victims were predominantly concerned that fraud offences would not be repeated. Victims also hoped to be compensated for their losses, although they had no general expectation that this would happen.

The Fraud Review recommended that the Crown court should have wider powers to deal with the consequences of fraud offences. The Government have agreed that these recommendations need to be considered further, and that consideration will include wider powers to compensate victims of fraud offences. In relation to wider powers the views and experiences of victims will be one of the main considerations.

In giving further consideration to these issues, the Government will consider any lessons we might learn from other jurisdictions.

Honours: Prosecutions

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Solicitor-General whether he would proceed with the appointment of named counsel to advise him on whether prosecutions under the Honours (Prevention of Abuses) Act 1925 should proceed if the approval of the Leader of the Opposition were not forthcoming. [134088]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney-General has previously indicated the arrangements which his Office will put in place if he is consulted by the Crown Prosecution Service in the current "honours" case. These will ensure objectivity, independence and transparency through the appointment of independent senior counsel to consider the CPS conclusions and advise. The Attorney-General has undertaken to consult Opposition spokesmen in an attempt to secure prior agreement on the choice of counsel. A decision on who to instruct will be taken then. If, following this process, a decision is taken not to prosecute, counsel's advice relating to that decision will be made public.

The Attorney-General has made it clear that he will exercise his role independently of Government, in accordance with the law and the evidence. We are clear that our first duty as Law Officers is to the law, not to party politics.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the capability of the Royal Navy to execute carrier-based air superiority missions following the decommissioning of the Sea Harrier; and if he will make a statement. [132853]

Mr. Ingram: The primary function of carrier-borne airpower is the direct support of ground operations, for which the Harrier GR7/GR9 aircraft are eminently suited. In an operation where there is a significant air threat to maritime forces, air defence will be provided by either land-based or coalition aircraft in addition to the sea-based air defence capability. In the future, the Joint Strike Fighter will give the joint force the ability to contribute to the full spectrum of fast jet air operations from either a carrier or a land base.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* Gap Year Commission and *(b)* Combined Cadet Force recruits who entered the regular forces in each year since 1997. [131695]

Derek Twigg: On the subject of Gap Year Commissions, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 687W, to the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell).

The information on the proportion of the Combined Cadet Force that go on to join the regular armed forces is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which UK *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian airports British armed forces casualties are evacuated. [132847]

Mr. Ingram: To establish an appropriate aeromedical evacuation pathway, British armed forces casualties are medically risk-assessed on an individual basis. Most

military patients are flown to RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire or (in the case of a Hercules aircraft transfer) RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire.

Should the medical risk assessment identify an urgent clinical need, arrangements will be made to fly patients to the most appropriate airfield, either military or civilian, for quick access to the receiving hospital or facility. In most cases, the most appropriate airfield will be the East Midlands Airport to enable rapid transfer to the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHBFT), the main reception centre for Service casualties and home of the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM). However, other civilian airfields have been used occasionally to place patients in the most appropriate place as soon as possible.

In the event of large numbers of patients being repatriated, the destination airfield is defined by the Reception Arrangements for Military Patients (RAMP) agreed from a rota produced by the Department of Health (DH) and Department for Transport (DFT) based on:

Location of available NHS resources and the required treatment for the patients.

The requirement to avoid overloading facilities in any one NHS region.

Type of aircraft and the likely patient load.

Aircraft capability and expected weather conditions.

Armed Forces: Desertion

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions service personnel were recorded absent without leave because NHS hospitals did not notify service authorities of the admission of service patients in each year since 1997. [132626]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Employment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen from the 3rd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment have been granted permission to serve in the private security sector while still a serving member of the armed forces in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Dubai, *(c)* Iraq and *(d)* Afghanistan in the last five months; and if he will make a statement. [132843]

Mr. Ingram: No serviceman from the 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment has either sought or been granted permission to serve in the private security sector while serving in the armed forces during the last five months in any country. Queen's Regulations for the Army clearly states that such employment is not permitted. This includes personnel who are on terminal leave at the end of their service.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of personnel who do not have a local connection to any local authority for the purposes of applying for social housing on leaving the armed forces. [133144]

Derek Twigg: Information on the number of Service personnel who do not have a local connection with any local authority for the purposes of applying for social housing is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate expense.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence from whom the house occupied by the *(a)* Commander-in-Chief Land and *(b)* Adjutant General is rented. [134154]

Derek Twigg: As with all service personnel occupying service families accommodation in England and Wales, the houses occupied by Commander-in-Chief Land and the Adjutant General are owned by Annington Homes Ltd and leased back under the terms agreed under the sale of the Married Quarter Estate in November 1996.

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department to help members of the armed forces living in Northern Ireland with their transition back to civilian life in each of the last three years; how much of that sum was spent on housing; and what personnel were responsible for this task over the same period, broken down by grade. [133117]

Mr. Ingram: The cost of providing third line contracted-out career transition partnership (CTP) services to service leavers using the Regional Resettlement Centre (RRC) at Aldergrove during financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 was £286,000, £397,000 and £391,000 respectively. These sums cover only the per capita payments made to the CTP contractor, Right Coutts Ltd, for full resettlement service registrations and discharges, and employment support programme registrations and discharges. It does not cover the cost of providing the facilities of RRC Aldergrove to the CTP contractor, or his staffing costs, which cannot be disaggregated from contracted price standing charges for all CTP facility manpower across the UK and Germany.

Neither do these figures include the cost of resettlement services provided in Northern Ireland by single service education and resettlement staffs: such information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Moreover, disaggregation of the proportion of time spent on resettlement provision by many who also deliver general education services to service personnel stationed in Northern Ireland would be subjective in the absence of recorded activity. The cost of resettlement training for the service leavers using RRC Aldergrove over this period, and their associated travel and subsistence costs, is not held centrally and could also only be provided at disproportionate cost. However, the maximum sum claimable by service leavers who discharged over this period in terms of individual resettlement training costs grant only would have been in the order of £900,000.

None of the per capita sums represents housing costs.

Since all CTP services are provided under contract, and not directly by the MOD, no MOD personnel were directly involved in delivering services under the CTP contract. Information on the break-down of grade structure of MOD personnel involved in delivering resettlement services at unit or local level could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces living in Northern Ireland received support to aid their transition back to civilian life in each of the last three years; and how many were assisted with housing issues. [133118]

Mr. Ingram: A total of 2,102 members of the armed forces were discharged through the Regional Resettlement Centre at RAF Aldergrove during financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, although it is not possible to confirm that all these Service leavers were living in Northern Ireland at the time or subsequently settled in the Province. The breakdown, which does not include serving personnel still moving through the resettlement process, is as follows:

	Financial year			
Numbers taking up	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Total*
Full resettlement programme	491	615	674	1,680
Employment support programme	194	139	89	422

The personnel moving through resettlement include approximately a further 1,562 Royal Irish (Home Service) redundees who commenced resettlement preparation from 6 January 2006 but have yet to reach their phased exit date. The 1,680 includes 273 RI(HS) who were discharged by March 2007.

Information on the numbers of these Service leavers assisted with housing is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support is provided to service personnel living in Northern Ireland to aid their transition back to civilian life, with particular reference to housing. [133119]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence has set up the Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) to provide advice, guidance and support on all aspects of accommodation for those leaving the Services. In addition to this, the Service Leavers Support team provide specific support for Service personnel in Northern Ireland.

These offices provide links to local authorities and Housing Associations throughout the UK and can offer advice on all housing options available. These include applications for social housing, shared or co-ownership schemes, and advice on renting or purchasing a property.

The MOD also provides a Long Service Advance of Pay (LSAP) of up to £8,500 repaid over 10 years and prior to discharge to assist in purchasing a property. This is intended to encourage home ownership for those preparing to leave the Services.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Defence Schools Presentation Team visits are planned for 2007; [131699]

(2) what estimate he has made of the percentage of armed forces recruits that can be attributed to the work of the Defence Schools Presentation Teams in 2006; [131700]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 922-3W, on Defence Schools Presentation Teams, what assessment he has made of the impact of the Defence Schools Presentation Teams on *(a)* recruitment and *(b)* the public understanding of and relations with the armed forces; [131701]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 922-3W, on Defence Schools Presentation Teams, what consultation his Department undertook with each of the services when taking the decision to end the Defence Schools Presentations Teams; [131702]

(5) whether secondary school teachers will receive training on using the Defence Dynamics programme; [131718]

(6) what assessment has been made of the likely effects of replacing the Defence Schools Presentation Teams with the Defence Dynamics programme; and if he will make a statement; [131719]

(7) how much time he expects pupils to spend participating in the Defence Dynamic programme in order for that to be considered equivalent to attending a presentation by the Defence Schools Presentation Teams; [133339]

(8) whether the Defence Dynamic programme will be compulsory for all secondary schools in the United Kingdom; and how he plans to monitor the use of the programme's website. [133342]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Surveys

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the most recent Continuous Attitudes Survey for *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Navy, *(c)* the Royal Air Force and *(d)* service families. [132630]

Derek Twigg: With reference to the publication of the Continuous Attitude Surveys for serving personnel, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 201W. The Service families Continuous Attitude Surveys will be published shortly. I will write to the hon. Member when this has been done and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Defence Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the expenditure was on the defence dental services in each of the last five years. [132621]

Derek Twigg: Expenditure on the defence dental services (DDS) is presented in the following table. The total is shown as a sum of Direct Resource Expenditure (R-DEL—Salaries and consumable resources) followed by Capital Resource Expenditure (C-DEL—fixed assets) for each year. Indirect DEL (Depreciation etc.) is not included. Prior to 2005, the DDS was a Defence Agency (the Defence Dental Agency).

Figures for the last five years are:

£ million

Financial year	*RDEL*	*CDL*	*Total*
2002-03	40.801	0.900	41.701
2003-04	48.677	1.253	49.930
2004-05	49.466	1.205	50.671
2005-06	52.253	0.445	52.698
2006-07[1]	54.400	1.833	56.233

[1] Please note that the figures for the financial year 2006-07 have yet to be finalised.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many defence dental service dental officers were deployed on each operation in each of the last five years. [132624]

Derek Twigg: The number of times military dental officers deployed on operations in each calendar year is shown in the following table:

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Op Herrick—Afghanistan	—	—	—	—	16
Op Telic—Iraq	—	32	24	24	24
Op Palatine—Bosnia	8	8	—	—	—
Op Occulus—Balkans	—	—	8	8	8
Op Agricola—Kosovo	4	4	4	4	—

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many defence dental service dental officers are located at each of the regional defence dental service headquarters in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Germany and *(c)* Cyprus. [132625]

Derek Twigg: As of April 2007 there were nine defence dental service uniformed dental officers working as Principal Dental Officer (PDO) located at regional Headquarters in the UK, one in Germany and one in Cyprus.

The primary role of a PDO is to provide higher management to the regional dental centres. However, a number of PDOs also provide primary dental care at a dental clinic within their region.

General Service Medal: Suez

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to allow the wearing of the Suez Medal alongside National Service medals; and if he will make a statement. [132998]

Derek Twigg: Service in the Suez Canal Zone during the post-war years was recognised by the institution of the Naval General Service Medal 1915-62 and the General Service Medal 1918-62, with the clasp 'Canal Zone', for service between 1951 and 1954 and the clasp 'Near East', for participation in Operation Musketeer during the Suez Crisis of late 1956. There is no officially recognised 'Suez Medal'.

Similarly, no medal has been instituted for undertaking a period of National Service. National Servicemen could qualify for campaign medals under the same circumstances as their Regular colleagues. It would be divisive to offer National Servicemen a medal for being conscripted, when those who volunteered for service might not have received any award. Accordingly, there are no plans to introduce a new medal specifically for National Service.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much money was spent on psychiatric aftercare of Territorial Army members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan in each of the last five years; [131630]

(2) how many members of the Territorial Army who have completed tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan have sought psychiatric assistance following demobilisation; what medical support services are provided by the armed forces to members of the Territorial Army on demobilisation; and by what means the Government monitors the health of Territorial Army members following demobilisation. [131635]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Territorial Army *(a)* are on deployment in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan and *(b)* have served in each country in the last five years. [131636]

Mr. Ingram: As of 4 April 2007, there were around 280 Territorial Army (TA) personnel deployed in Iraq and around 260 in Afghanistan. This excludes members of the TA deployed on full-time reserve service.

We estimate that since March 2003 over 10,000 members of the TA have served in Iraq the basis of on mobilisation figures, but exact data is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. We estimate on a similar basis that since May 2006 around 450 members of the TA have served in Afghanistan. Data for service in Afghanistan during the preceding years are unavailable.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what medical services are made available by the armed forces to members of the regular army on the completion of tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. [131638]

Derek Twigg: Members of the regular Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Marines have access to a wide range of medical and dental services at all

times when they are not on operational deployment overseas. The range of services can be summarised as follows:

Primary Medical Care;

Regional Rehabilitation Services;

Dental Services (including dental hygiene);

Secondary Medical Care at the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHBFT) where the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) is based, at NHS hospitals hosting Ministry of Defence Hospital Units (MDHUs) and other NHS hospitals when required;

Rehabilitation Services provided by the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC), Headley Court;

Community and In-patient Mental Health Services.

Military Equipment: Iran

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what UK military equipment was seized by Iran in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007; and what its value is. [133580]

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value was of United Kingdom equipment seized by Iran in the Iraqi-Iran waterways in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007. [133818]

Des Browne *[holding answers 24 April 2007]*: In 2004 the equipment seized by the Iranian authorities consisted of two Combat Support Boats, six rifles and sights, six pistols and ammunition, radios and navigation equipment, global positioning system and maritime charts. The estimated replacement cost was approximately £500,000.

The equipment seized by Iranians during the capture of the 15 Royal Naval personnel in 2007 consisted of two Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats, seven carbines, four rifles, 10 pistols and ammunition, communications and navigation systems, body armour, helmets, goggles and camera equipment. The replacement cost is estimated at around £270,000.

Reserved Forces: National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of reservists who are overpaying national insurance; and if he will make a statement. [133536]

Derek Twigg: The change to a new payroll system in April 2007 may impact adversely on the national insurance charge levied on some reservists owing to two or more months' attendance pay being paid at the end of April 2007. It is too early to quantify the extent of the problem because data are still being input by Units and have yet to be analysed.

Once the extent of any problem has been determined a case will, if appropriate, be made by MOD to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for a central adjustment to correct overpayments. Any individuals who believe they have overpaid national insurance can, in the usual way, claim a refund at the end of the tax year.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Oral Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many questions tabled by right hon. and hon. Members to her Department for oral answer have been transferred to other Departments since May 2005. [133800]

Mr. Lammy: Six oral questions tabled by right hon. and hon. Members to the DCMS have been transferred to other Departments between 18 May 2005 and 16 April 2007.

Questions are only transferred to another Department when it is clear that the DCMS is not responsible for that area of policy, and only when the other Department has agreed to answer it. Members are always notified promptly.

Digital Broadcasting: Cheadle

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the number of households which will qualify for the targeted assistance scheme for the digital switchover; and how many of those households are in Cheadle constituency. [132496]

Mr. Woodward: Our current estimate is that 7.1 million households will be eligible for the Digital Switchover Help scheme (DSHS) nationally. For the Cheadle constituency, we estimate around 10 000 households will be eligible.

Notes:

Totals are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Eligibility for help from the Digital Switchover Help scheme will be by benefit unit rather than the whole household definition used by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Office to forecast future household growth.

The definition of a benefit unit is a couple and any dependent children. It excludes adults deemed to be non-dependants who, if eligible, will be able to claim assistance from the Help scheme in their own right.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures have been put in place to ensure that those eligible for the Targeted Assistance scheme for the digital switchover in Cheadle constituency are contacted by the most appropriate means. [132497]

Mr. Woodward: Using Department for Work and Pensions and local authority data, the Digital Switchover Help scheme operator will write to all eligible individuals well in advance of switchover in their area. This will give options to enable them to continue to receive television services after switchover. Where the scheme operator has information about the particular communications needs of individuals, it will aim to tailor its communications accordingly. In addition, Digital UK will provide generic communications about the Help scheme.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures have been put in place to ensure that those eligible for the Targeted Assistance scheme for the digital switchover in Cheadle constituency receive assistance that is appropriate to their individual needs. [132498]

Mr. Woodward: The scheme will contact those eligible eight months before their regional switchover, explaining the choices open to them. It will run a free help line so they can obtain more information. Once a choice has been made, the equipment will be delivered and, if necessary, installed.

Digital Switchover

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1550W, on digital switchover, whether the figure includes the households of people who are registered as blind or partially sighted but not on Department of Work and Pensions lists. [132183]

Mr. Woodward: We estimate that around 80 per cent. of registered blind and partially sighted people will be over 75 or receive a qualifying disability-related benefit. A further 50,000 people, or 0.7 per cent. of the total eligible households, nationwide may be eligible on grounds of blind or partially sighted registration alone. Our current estimates of the number of households in Whitehaven who qualify for assistance do not include those who qualify on grounds of registration alone but will be within the rounding tolerances given for the Whitehaven estimates.

Energy: Conservation

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 17W, on energy conservation, if she will list the energy-producing features contained in the Government's Better Public Building initiative. [133578]

Mr. Lammy: The Better Public Building initiative aims to encourage high-quality design in all new public building. It does not itself set standards or recommend specific design solutions relating to energy-producing features. Rather, it sets out principles for good design, which include sustainability, and exemplifies its benefits.

There are therefore no specific requirements for energy-producing features to be incorporated into new build or refurbished buildings within the Government's Better Public Building initiative. However, alongside energy efficiency and low energy measures, it is encouraged and buildings that do so are championed, for example through the Prime Minister's Award for Better Public Building. Information can be found at http://www.betterpublicbuildings.gov.uk/

The section on environmentally sustainable design on pages 8 and 9 of Better public building (December 2006) summarises this position.

Licensing Laws: Urban Areas

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the consistency of application of the Licensing Act 2003 by local authorities in urban areas. [133934]

Mr. Woodward: The evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 includes a review of the statutory Guidance given to the licensing authorities; the independent review of licence fees, which has included some areas of licensing administration; the impact of the Act on the four licensing objectives; and the DCMS simplification plan published in December last year. The evaluation will not be complete until later this year. It should be noted that the administration of the 2003 Act is devolved by its provisions to local licensing authorities. Local licensing authorities have some discretion to respond to local circumstances and absolute consistency is not an aim of the legislation. Where inconsistency is generated by misunderstanding, the Government have attempted to provide clarification through the statutory Guidance. We expect to publish revised Guidance in the early summer.

Museums and Galleries: Theatre

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* museums and *(b)* theatres (i) opened and (ii) closed in (A) the United Kingdom, (B) each region and (C) each London borough in each month of the last five years. [132140]

Mr. Lammy: Museums and the arts outside England are devolved matters. Information on local authority funded museums and theatres, or independent museums and theatres, is not held centrally. Four branches of DCMS-sponsored museums have opened in the last five years: The Churchill Suite (April 2003) together with The Churchill Museum (February 2005) at the Cabinet War Rooms, Whitehall, part of the Imperial War Museum and located in the London borough of Westminster; The Museum in Docklands (May 2003), part of the Museum of London Group and located in the London borough of Tower Hamlets; the Imperial War Museum of the North (July 2002) in the north- west; and Locomotion (September 2004) in the north-east, a branch of the National Museum of Science and Industry.

Two branches of DCMS-sponsored museums have closed in the last five years: The Museum of Liverpool Life (June 2006) in the north-west, part of National Museums Liverpool, but with a new Museum of Liverpool scheduled to open in 2010; and the Theatre Museum (January 2007) part of the Victoria and Albert Museum and located in the London borough of Camden.

Two Arts Council England-funded producing theatres have opened in the last five years: Hampstead Theatre (February 2003, London borough of Camden) and the Unicorn (December 2005, London borough of Southwark).

One Arts Council England-funded producing theatres have closed in the last five years:

Region	Closure
London	The Bridewell (December 2004, City of London) and Southwark Playhouse (September 2006, London borough of Southwark)
North West	Chester Gateway (March 2007), but new performing arts centre scheduled to open in 2010-11
South East	Gardner Arts Centre, Brighton (March 2007) and The Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke (January 2007, but scheduled to re-open in September 2007)

Sports: Scotland

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the likely reduction in lottery funding for grass-roots sport in Scotland due to the funding requirement of the 2012 Olympics. [134133]

Mr. Caborn: Lottery money has always paid for a very wide range of sport projects from kit for local teams to investments in major stadia and sports halls. There is no accepted definition of what constitutes "grass roots" investment or otherwise in this range.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received from the British ambassador to the United Nations following the Security Council briefing by the African Union Chairman Alpha Oumar Konare. [132586]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary chaired an informal private meeting, bringing together all members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) with the UN Secretary-General and African Union (AU) chairperson on 16 April.

Following the meeting the UK, as UNSC president, issued a press statement on behalf of the council, welcoming the Government of Sudan's acceptance of the heavy support package to the AU mission in Sudan. It also called on the Government of Sudan to facilitate the immediate deployment of the peacekeeping package, as agreed at the Addis Ababa and Abuja summits last November. It was agreed that the UNSC president would write to the UN Secretary-General to request funding for the package from the General Assembly. The UNSC members also called for an immediate ceasefire; a renewed political process; and an improvement in the humanitarian situation.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Angola

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the activities of Angolan military forces in territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Kahemba district; and if she will make a statement. [133158]

Mr. McCartney: Angolan forces are currently positioned in Kahemba on what they consider to be Angolan territory. The Congolese and Angolan Foreign and Interior Ministers have had discussions on the disputed territory of Kahemba and are committed to the peaceful resolution of the border dispute. An investigative commission went to Kahemba and will report to the Democratic Republic of the Congo Parliament in due course.

On 15 December 2006 Angola signed up to the Security, Stability and Development Pact for the Great Lakes region. With international partners we continue to call on the signatories to ratify the pact, resolve in a constructive manner their shared security and border problems, and ensure their territory is not used by armed groups to infringe on the sovereignty of others.

Mr. Kiyemba Mutale

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* reports she has received and *(b)* representations she has made to the Ugandan authorities on the assault of Mr. Kiyemba Mutale on 1 March; and if she will make a statement. [132984]

Mr. McCartney: Our high commission in Kampala is following the case of the alleged People's Redemption Army suspects closely. We were concerned by the eye-witness and media reports of an assault on Mr. Mutale.

We have not made specific representations to the Government of Uganda about Mr. Mutale's case. However, on 5 March my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, raised our concerns about events on 1 March at the Ugandan High Court with the Ugandan high commissioner in London. Our high commissioner in Kampala, with other EU heads of mission, made representations to the acting Foreign Minister, Henry Okello Oryem, on 2 March, including on the violence used by the security forces, and again most recently with other EU heads of mission on 13 April with Foreign Minister Kutesa. We continue to press all sides to respect the rule of law, human rights and abide by the constitution.

Official Visits

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries do not receive an official welcome from the Government for their Ministers on official visits to the UK. [134091]

Mr. Hoon: Only Ministers who have been invited as guests of the Government receive an official welcome. On arrival in the UK they are met by a representative of my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary.

Sudan

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department has taken to extend the arms embargo established under UN Security Council resolutions 1556 and 1591 in co-operation with the UN Panel of

Experts *(a)* to cover the whole of Sudan and *(b)* to reflect the full inventory of weapons held by all parties to the conflict. [133490]

Mr. McCartney: At a meeting of the UN Security Council on 16 April chaired by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, she made the case for further sanctions to press the Government of Sudan and rebel movements to abide by their agreements. We are discussing a draft UN Security Council Resolution with other Security Council members to extend the UN arms embargo to the whole of Sudan covering arms and related military material. If the Sudanese Government and rebels do not co-operate and fulfil their obligations, we must be prepared to take tougher measures.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of statements by the Sudanese Government that 3,000 United Nations peacekeepers will be allowed into Darfur; whether the deployment is to include *(a)* attack helicopters and *(b)* armoured personnel carriers to help African Union forces; under what remit these peacekeepers will serve; and if she will make a statement. [132598]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary welcomed the Sudanese acceptance of the UN's heavy support package (HSP) for Darfur at a Security Council discussion on 16 April. However, it is only a step towards the full African Union (AU)/UN hybrid operation that was agreed six months ago in Addis Ababa. We are now looking to the Sudanese to ensure they honour their commitments through the speedy implementation of the HSP and hybrid force.

The HSP will include attack helicopters. Armoured personnel carriers are provided through a light support package which is already deploying. The HSP will prepare the way for a foil AU/UN hybrid force, as well as reinforce the police and civilian elements of the current AU mission.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of a new ceasefire agreement between the Ugandan Government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA); what terms have been agreed between both parties; and what reports she has received from the United Nations Special Envoy Joachim Chissano on his meetings with the LRA leader. [132573]

Mr. McCartney: We are encouraged that the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was extended on 14 April. The parties have agreed that the LRA will assemble at a designated assembly point in southern Sudan by 25 May. The Juba peace talks are set to resume today. We call on all parties to remain focused on finding a peaceful resolution to this long-running conflict, and to implement their commitments.

The UN Special Envoy for LRA Affected Areas, former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, briefed the our high commissioner in Kampala along with other members of the international community, most recently on 15 April, following his meeting with LRA leaders on 13 April. We will continue to support his efforts.

Uganda: Human Rights

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment her Department has made of the human rights situation in Uganda; and if she will make a statement. [132987]

Mr. McCartney: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow) on 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1409-410W.

We continue to raise our concerns with the Ugandan Government on the issues mentioned in my previous answer. Most recently, we have focused on:

the forced disarmament programme in Karamoja, where there have been serious allegations of human rights abuses; and

events surrounding the detention and treatment of the alleged People's Redemption Army suspects, where the violence used by the government forces at the Uganda High Court on 1 March to frustrate the decision of the High Court to grant the suspects bail had grave implications for the independence of the judiciary, respect for the rule of law and human rights in Uganda.

We will continue to press the Ugandan Government on the need to respect fully human rights.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the Government have made to the United Nations Human Rights Council on *(a)* political and civil rights, *(b)* freedom of the press and *(c)* food provision in Zimbabwe. [132606]

Mr. McCartney: In my address to the Human Rights Council (HRC) on 13 March, I expressed the UK's utter condemnation of the violent repression of peaceful protesters on 11 March. The UK made a statement at the HRC on 29 March expressing our deep concern at events in Zimbabwe. We urged the Government of Zimbabwe to allow its people to express their political views without harassment, intimidation or violence and to repeal repressive legislation that curtails the freedom of the media, expression and association. We also confirmed our commitment to alleviate the suffering of ordinary Zimbabweans caused by the Government of Zimbabwe's misgovernance by continuing to provide humanitarian assistance and food relief.

In addition, we urged the UN special rapporteur for freedom of opinion and expression and the UN special rapporteur on torture to visit Zimbabwe and report back to the HRC at its sixth session, and welcomed the commitment made by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to monitor the judicial process against Mr Tsvangirai and his colleagues.

Also on 29 March, 50 UN member states supported a statement by the EU presidency at the HRC expressing concern at the situation in Zimbabwe and, at our request, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs briefed the UN Security Council in New York on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations *(a)* she and *(b)* representatives of her Department have made to (i) Zimbabwean authorities and (ii) the Ugandan authorities on physical attacks on the leaders of the opposition in their countries; and if she will make a statement. [132986]

Mr. McCartney: On Zimbabwe, both my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, have made statements condemning the violent and unwarranted action taken by that country's Government on 11 March and stating clearly that we hold Mugabe and his Government responsible for the safety of all those detained. The same strong message was delivered to the Zimbabwean ambassador in London when he was summoned by my noble Friend Lord Triesman on 13 March. I also condemned the Government of Zimbabwe in my address to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on 13 March, and both the UK and EU made similar statements of condemnation at the Human Rights Council on 29 March.

We are not aware of any recent physical attacks against leaders of the Ugandan opposition. However, in our contacts with the Government of Uganda and with Ugandan opposition parties, we continue to stress the importance of maintaining a pluralist democracy, developing civil society, and respecting the rule of law.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Electoral Register: Foreigners

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if the Government will take steps to require foreign individuals who register to vote to prove their nationality. [134189]

Bridget Prentice: All electors are required to state their nationality on the canvass form when registering to vote. Furthermore, electoral registers are available for public inspection and anyone who believes that an ineligible person has been included may object and notify the ERO who may then make further inquiries as to the eligibility of that individual. The Electoral Administration Act strengthened this process by:

Allowing any individual to object to another person's registration details at any time.

Allowing an ERO to initiate and conduct a review of a person's registration at any time.

Creating a new criminal offence of supplying false information or failing to supply information to the electoral registration officer at any time.

Giving the police more time to carry out investigations into electoral fraud (they may apply to court to have the normal one year limit for bringing prosecutions increased to two years, so long as there has been no undue delay in the investigation).

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1790W, on accident and emergency departments, in what format data relating to the catchment areas of accident and emergency departments are collected. [131940]

Andy Burnham: In terms of information on accident and emergency (A and E) departments, national health service trusts self-report the number of A and E services they provide against definitions set by the Department for the three types of A and E. This information is not available at the level of individual hospitals.

Population data are also available at the level of strategic health authorities.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 117W, on accident and emergency departments, what the evidential basis is for increasing consensus among professional bodies that a critical size of hospital is required to ensure that specialist facilities are available to treat all patients with emergency needs safely; and what the *(a)* date of publication and *(b)* professional body responsible is in each case. [131969]

Andy Burnham: Reports for example by Collins (1999) "Organisation of acute general services" Joint Consultants Committee, and from the Royal College of Surgeons (2006) "Delivering high quality surgical services for the future—a consultation document from the Royal College of Surgeons of England reconfiguration working party", make reference to suggested catchment areas for hospitals and services that should be available.

Arun Community Hospital

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects rebuilding work to begin on Arun community hospital; and if she will make a statement on the Government's policy on community hospitals. [132706]

Andy Burnham: We are committed to community hospitals where they represent the best solutions for local communities. As such we have set up a five-year, £750 million programme to support the development of community hospitals and services.

The future of Arun community hospital is a matter for the local national health service. I am informed by NHS South East Coast that the future configuration of

community hospitals, including Arun community hospital, is a key part of West Sussex primary care trust's strategy. However, no decisions on the future of community hospitals in West Sussex will be made until the outcome of the "Creating an NHS fit for the future" consultation exercise for West Sussex is known.

Blood: Diseases

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to set up a series of recognised regional sickle cell and thalassaemia screening and care centres based on the model developed for cancer care. [133486]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The implementation of the screening programmes for sickle cell and thalassaemia has raised the profile of the conditions and increased the demand for services with increased numbers of cases being identified. A range of work is in hand to support clinicians responsible for patients with thalassaemia and sickle cell and help to ensure that patients have access to the same quality of care, including neonates identified by the screening programme.

A professional group led by the British Society for Haematology (on behalf of the British Committee for Standards in Haematology), and the United Kingdom Forum on Haemoglobin Disorders and supported by the Department and the voluntary sector has developed national standards for the clinical care of children with sickle cell disease. These guidelines were published in October 2006. Standards for the clinical care of children and adults with thalassaemia in the UK were published in June 2005. The guidelines were sponsored by the UK Thalassaemia Society and endorsed by the Department.

The Department is working with a range of key stakeholders to develop a model of a managed clinical network, to ensure that the potential benefits of the screening programme are achieved and that the complications that require specialist care are managed in the right place with appropriate resources. Ten such networks covering the country are proposed, building on existing expertise, to allow access to comprehensive care to be available across the country.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what account has been taken by her Department of the views of older people living in care homes who are in receipt of the personal expenses allowance in the annual consultation on residential care charges; [132146]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the impact on the quality of life of older people in care homes of an increase of the personal allowance to £40 per week, as part of its annual consultation on residential care charges. [132147]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A number of meetings have been held with key stakeholders representing care home residents, to discuss a range of issues relating to the assessment of resources regulations, including the personal expenses allowance (PEA). Stakeholders involved have included voluntary organisations such as Age Concern, Help the Aged, the Nursing Home Fees Agency, the Relatives and Residents Association and MENCAP. The views of stakeholders will be considered and there will be a further meeting with them before recommendations are put to Ministers.

I have made no assessment of the impact on the quality of life of older people in care homes of an increase of the personal allowance to £40 per week. The PEA was set many years ago at a level that was felt to be appropriate. Since then PEA has been increased annually in line with average earnings. The PEA is provided for care home residents to have money to spend, as they wish, on small items such as on stationery or personal toiletries. It takes into account the fact that people in care homes generally have fewer personal expenses than those living in their own homes. The PEA was increased to £20.45 per week on 9 April 2007.

Cervical Cancer: Vaccination

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department plans to provide guidance on the use of human papilloma virus vaccines in its licence indications. [132823]

Caroline Flint: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has set up a human papilloma virus (HPV) subgroup to examine all safety, efficacy and cost issues relating to HPV vaccines. The subgroup is in the process of examining the evidence concerning the available HPV vaccines, including all the licence indications. The sub group's advice will be reported to the main JCVI committee for further discussion. No decisions will be taken on introducing these vaccines into the immunisation programme until the JCVI has presented its advice to Ministers for their consideration.

Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust received in each year since 1992. [133683]

Andy Burnham: Revenue allocations were first made to primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2003-04. Prior to this, funding was allocated to health authorities.

The most recent round of revenue allocations, covering 2006-07 and 2007-08, was announced in February 2005. The table shows the revenue allocations made to Coventry Teaching PCT for this period

Coventry Teaching PCT	
Allocation (£ million)	
2006-07	425.2
2007-08	469.5
Two year increase	
£ million	89.0
Percentage	23.4

The 2003-04 to 2005-06 revenue allocations to PCTs were announced in December 2002. The table shows the revenue allocations made to Coventry Teaching PCT for this period.

Coventry Teaching PCT	
Allocation (£ million)	
2003-04	289.9
2004-05	318.4
2005-06	348.0
Three year increase	
£ million	82.3
Percentage	31.0

Notes
Comparisons between allocations rounds cannot be made for the following reasons:
Revenue allocations were made to health authorities for the period 2000-01 to 2002-03;
Changes are made to the weighted capitation formula for each allocations round, therefore, comparisons would not be on a like for like basis;
2003-06 revenue allocations were made direct to PCTs, for the first time, and were on a three yearly basis;
2006-08 is the first year that Primary Medical Services (PMedS) were incorporated onto revenue allocations.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were registered with a general practitioner in each year since 1997. [131911]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows the number of patients registered with a general practitioner (or since 2004 with a general practice) in England in each year since 1997.

	Numbers (headcount)
1997	50,917,256
1998	51,117,646
1999	50,898,948
2000	51,336,812
2001	51,254,833
2002	51,524,894
2003	52,713,780
2004	52,527,737
2005	52,817,500

Source
The Information Centre general and personal medical services statistics.

General Practitioners: Fees and Charges

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will review the appropriateness of the entitlement of general practitioners to charge patients for a letter certifying that they may safely attend a gym. [133155]

Andy Burnham: General practitioners (GPs) are required to issue specified medical certificates, free of charge. However, GPs also provide a variety of other services which successive Governments have regarded as private matters between the patient and the doctor providing the service. The doctor is free to make a charge for these non-national health service services if he or she wishes. There are no plans to review this.

General Practitioners: Pay

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 39W, when she plans to publish audited financial outturn data on the amount primary care trusts have spent on component 2 of the directed enhanced service for practice-based commissioning. [131897]

Andy Burnham: Final spend figures for component two of the practice-based commissioning directed enhanced service, based on audited annual accounts, will be available in summer 2007.

Health Appointments

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1883W, on health appointments, when the Chair of the Appointments Commission will write to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Attercliffe. [133869]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 5 April 2007]:* I understand that the Appointments Commission have now written to the hon. Member in response to his earlier inquiry.

Health Services: Mothers

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the level of support offered to women with postnatal health problems. [133682]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No assessment has been made of the adequacy of the level of support offered to women with postnatal mental health problems.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) postnatal care guideline, published in July 2006, recommends a fully personalised plan for each woman, which takes into account her and her baby's individual needs. The guideline also places great importance on healthcare professionals, taking into account the particular needs of individual families and on having the competencies required for each routine postnatal visit or appointment with the mother or baby, so that they can recognise any signs and symptoms of potentially life-threatening conditions. It recommends that all maternity care providers (whether working in hospital or in primary care) should implement an externally evaluated structured programme that encourages breastfeeding. NICE also made recommendations in its recent guidance to improve services for women who experience mental health problems during or after pregnancy. We expect mental health services available for such women to improve as local services implement the Department's and the Institute's guidance in light of their assessment of local need.

One of the key commissioning mechanisms of the framework for Commissioning health and wellbeing, which went out for consultation in March 2007, includes placing emphasis on the importance of primary care trusts and local authorities working

together to develop practical and deliverable proposals for improving maternity services including the development of maternity, neonatal and perinatal mental health networks and Children's Trusts.

Our framework document "Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service" outlines our strategy to deliver and achieve our commitment to give women clinically appropriate choice over the maternity services they will receive. This was published on 3 April and it includes outlining the roles that service providers and commissioners will have in the provision of woman-focused, family-centred maternity services, incorporating the need to commission high-quality, equitable, integrated maternity services as part of maternity, neonatal and perinatal mental health networks according to local need.

Health Visitors: Hampshire

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* head count and *(b)* full-time equivalent (i) health visitors and (ii) district nurses (A) were working in North Hampshire primary care trusts (PCTs) in each year between 1999-2000 and 2005-06 and (B) are expected to be working in the new Hampshire PCTs in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [132351]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 24 April 2007]*: The following table gives headcount and full-time equivalent numbers of health visitors and district nurses who were working in the predecessor organisations which now form Hampshire primary care trust (PCT). Data is only available for the years 2002 to 2005 and is provided in the following table. Figures for 2006 will be published in the 2006 NHS Workforce Census on 26 April 2007.

National health service hospital and community health services: Health visitors and district nurses in each specified primary care trust as at 30 September each specified year

	Headcount				*Full-time equivalent*			
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Total specified organisations	498	552	450	417	388	420	325	310
Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT	121	134	100	79	96	103	76	59
Health visitor	59	74	56	49	48	57	43	37
District nurse	62	60	44	30	48	46	33	22
East Hampshire PCT	61	62	60	62	49	50	46	49
Health visitor	41	41	38	39	31	31	28	29
District nurse	20	21	22	23	19	19	18	19
Eastleigh and Test Valley South PCT	49	47	36	37	35	34	26	28
Health visitor	31	31	25	24	22	22	17	17
District nurse	18	16	11	13	13	12	8	11
Fareham and Gosport PCT	68	69	88	71	54	52	58	54
Health visitor	45	44	46	41	33	31	32	29
District nurse	23	25	42	30	21	22	26	25
Mid-Hampshire PCT	24	64	51	55	18	46	36	39
Health visitor	11	47	34	37	8	31	22	24
District nurse	13	17	17	18	11	15	14	15
New Forest PCT	55	56	55	51	43	43	39	38
Health visitor	32	30	33	32	23	20	21	21
District nurse	23	26	22	19	20	23	18	17
North Hampshire PCT	120	120	60	62	92	92	44	43
Health visitor	56	54	43	40	40	39	31	28
District nurse	64	66	17	22	52	53	13	14

Notes:
The drop in figures between 2003 and 2004 has been explained by the trusts as data cleansing across the Hampshire area.
Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Hearing Aids: Waiting Lists

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* target and *(b)* actual average waiting time is for people requiring a new digital hearing aid from the point of referral from GP to final fitting of the hearing aid in England. [132238]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The most complex audiology cases will be covered by the target of treatment within

18 weeks of referral by December 2008, and the remaining routine adult hearing loss cases should be assessed within six weeks by March 2008, in line with the diagnostic waiting time milestone on which local commissioning plans are based. It is also good practice for the subsequent hearing aid fitting to be carried out soon after or at the same time as assessment.

The information on actual average waiting time for people requiring a new digital hearing aid from the point of referral to general practitioner for final fitting is not held centrally. However, the median wait for audiology assessments is 23 weeks.

The national audiology framework "Improving Access to Audiology Services in England", was published on 6 March 2007, and copies are available in the Library. It sets out clear guidance to the national health service on how to reduce waiting times and how to provide the additional 300,000 pathways that are needed in the run-up to December 2008 to make a maximum wait of 18 weeks from referral to treatment possible for all audiology referrals. It aims to mitigate the risk to 18-week delivery and create a sustainable service model for audiology for the long term.

Hospices: Finance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding her Department provided to *(a)* children's and *(b)* adults' hospices in each of the last five years for which figures are available; how much she expects to be spent in future years; and if she will make a statement. [133382]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not available centrally. The level of funding a hospice receives is a matter for local negotiation between the local primary care trust, who are responsible for commissioning and funding palliative care services locally, and the hospice.

The Government have delivered on their commitment to make an additional £50 million per annum available for specialist palliative care for adults. The money is now recurrent in PCT baseline allocations. In April 2007, we announced the allocation of £40 million capital funds for adults' hospices to improve their physical environments.

In September 2006, a fund of up to £10 million was also announced to support Marie Curie Cancer Care's major capital modernisation programme of hospices in North London and Birmingham. The business case has been approved, although the final details have yet to be agreed.

Voluntary sector children's hospices are receiving funding of £27 million between 2006-07 and 2008-09. They have already been given the first tranche of £9 million in 2006-07.

Hospitals: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria were used to reach the recent decision to postpone the building of a children's and maternity hospital in Leeds; and whether she was directly consulted during the process leading up to the decision. [134037]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national health service in Leeds is committed to providing the highest-quality services, including children's and maternity services, for the people it serves.

No decision has been made on any part of the Making Leeds Better proposals. The entire health community remains committed to finding a workable solution to improve children's and maternity services in Leeds.

Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority (SHA) has asked Leeds primary care trust (PCT) to review concerns about affordability and to examine all the options available for children's and maternity services in Leeds. The PCT will present a full project plan to the SHA at the end of April.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1194W, on hospital waiting lists, what assessment she has made of the statistical significance of the moderate correlation between the secondary sector clinical targets and service initial positions in 2003-04 and the age-needs index. [131877]

Andy Burnham: The distance between several secondary sector service targets and the service initial positions in March 2003-04 is moderately correlated to the age/needs index: the primary care trust health economies with low age/needs had modestly further to travel to achieve the targets. However, numerous parts of the country with low age/needs did not have far to travel in meeting these targets. The correlation is not a perfect one (with correlation co-efficients ranging from -0.28 in the case of distance to the accident and emergency four hour wait and age/needs to -0.13 in the case of distance to the out-patient booking targets and age/needs). The reasons behind the relationship are complex.

Secondary sector under-performance in low age/needs areas is likely to have existed for some time prior to March 2003-04. By raising the quality of care to uniform national standards, the Government have significantly improved the services provided to patients in these areas.

The age and need indices, and the interactions between them, are currently being reviewed by independent academic researchers under the auspices of the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation. A new age and need adjustment for weighted capitation may emerge from this research for resource allocation in 2008-09.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for *(a)* in-patient, *(b)* day case and *(c)* out-patient appointments at each hospital in London in (i) 1992, (ii) 1997, (iii) 2001, (iv) 2005 and (v) the most recent year for which figures are available. [132331]

Andy Burnham: The information requested can be found in the following table.

Table 1: Provider based median waiting time information, London NHS Trusts

Median waiting time (weeks) / month end

		March 1992			March 1997		
Organisation code	*Organisation*	*In-patient admission ordinary*	*In-patient admission daycase*	*Out-patient appointment*	*In-patient admission ordinary*	*In-patient admission daycase*	*Out-patient appointment*
RAI	Epsom Healthcare NHS Trust	8.4	7.8	n/a	16.6	10.7	3.3
RAK	Royal London Hospital and Associated Community Services NHS Trust	12.3	8.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	14.2	10.4	n/a	20.6	12.3	4.6
RAZ	St. Helier NHS Trust	15.3	10.8	n/a	17.2	9.6	3.6
RAV	The Guy's and Lewisham NHS Trust	15.3	10.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAP	North Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	15.6	9.9	n/a	25.0	11.8	7.5
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	17.5	16.1	n/a	15.2	9.8	5.8
RAN	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust London)	18.2	12.6	n/a	11.6	9.2	12.3
RAU	Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	23.6	8.3	n/a	17.8	9.1	6.7
RAR	Mount Vernon Hospital NHS Trust	25.2	23.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAS	Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	25.2	8.6	n/a	19.4	9.4	7.2
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.6	11.8	6.1
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.2	11.5	7.3
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.4	9.7	5.9
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.6	13.3	8.1
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.5	10.9	8.4
R31	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.3	15.7	7.2
R32	Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.6	11.7	6.9
RJ5	St. Mary's NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.5	10.6	6.9
R36	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	23.9	12.5	4.2
RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	16.3	10.2	5.0
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.4	20.4	5.9
RKE	Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.9	9.2	5.0
RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RNH	Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.1	8.9	7.1
RNJ	Barts and the London NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	17.5	10.4	7.5
RNK	Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.1
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.0	9.0	4.8

Table 1: Provider based median waiting time information, London NHS Trusts

		Median waiting time (weeks) month end					
		March 1992			*March 1997*		
Organisation code	*Organisation*	*In-patient admission ordinary*	*In-patient admission daycase*	*Out-patient appointment*	*In-patient admission ordinary*	*In-patient admission daycase*	*Out-patient appointment*
RP6	Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.2	12.5	8.5
RPY	Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.6
ROM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.8	8.5	3.8
RON	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	23.9	21.9	4.5
ROX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.4	8.1	4.5
ROY	SW London and St. George's NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3.2
RRV	University College London NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	14.5	11.3	5.1
RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RV3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RWK	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RC5	Harefield Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.1	10.4	3.9
RDC	Wellhouse NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.2	11.3	6.5
RDF	Forest Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.5	17.5	9.3
RFZ	Northwick Park and St. Mark's NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	17.5	11.6	6.8
RG4	Redbridge Health Care NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.5	20.1	3.9
RG7	Havering Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	15.8	10.4	7.6
RG9	Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.9	16.8	7.0
RHG	Richmond Twickenham and Roehampton Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.2	10.7	3.2
RPX	Royal Brompton Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.6	14.2	2.0
R09	Bethlem and Maudsley NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.8	n/a	3.7
RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

		Median waiting time (weeks) month end					
		March 2001			*March 2005*		
Organisation code	*Organisation*	*In-patient admission ordinary*	*In-patient admission daycase*	*Out-patient appointment*	*In-patient admission ordinary*	*In-patient admission daycase*	*Out-patient appointment*
RA1	Epsom Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Median waiting time (weeks) month end

Organisation code	Organisation	March 2001			March 2005		
		In-patient admission ordinary	In-patient admission daycase	Out-patient appointment	In-patient admission ordinary	In-patient admission daycase	Out-patient appointment
RAK	Royal London Hospital and Associated Community Services NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	17.1	12.4	6.1	9.7	8.2	6.6
RAZ	St. Helier NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAV	The Guy's and Lewisham NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAP	North Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	18.7	19.0	11.9	10.7	7.8	7.7
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	18.3	10.8	8.0	9.1	8.1	7.8
RAN	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust London)	12.4	10.8	9.8	13.4	10.1	11.8
RAU	Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAR	Mount Vernon Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAS	Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	12.2	8.3	8.8	10.1	6.6	7.4
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	16.4	11.2	7.3	10.2	8.0	8.8
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.4	8.6	9.0
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	26.5	9.8	5.0	13.1	7.9	6.1
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	15.8	9.7	7.2	11.7	6.4	5.8
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	18.3	17.3	6.3	12.0	8.4	7.1
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.7	10.4	8.4
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	24.7	14.3	9.1	11.0	9.6	8.0
R31	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	19.7	16.6	10.5	10.1	7.4	8.4
R32	Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	21.8	9.3	7.3	7.9	8.7	7.6
RJ5	St. Mary's NHS Trust	13.7	9.1	7.5	8.3	6.6	7.9
R36	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	26.4	11.7	7.0	9.3	7.8	7.7
RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	18.2	9.5	7.7	10.6	7.4	6.5
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	18.0	10.8	6.2	9.3	6.4	6.8
RKE	Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	11.4	9.0	5.7	7.0	5.5	6.4
RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.3
RNH	Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	15.1	9.3	7.6	9.9	6.6	6.9
RNJ	Barts and the London NHS Trust	18.2	10.5	9.9	8.0	5.6	8.9
RNK	Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	8.5	n/a	n/a	7.5
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	12.5	10.9	9.0	7.5	6.7	5.9
RP6	Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	9.0	12.5	6.0	5.2	6.0	11.4

Organisation code	Organisation	Median waiting time (weeks) month end March 2001 In-patient admission ordinary	In-patient admission daycase	Out-patient appointment	Median waiting time (weeks) month end March 2005 In-patient admission ordinary	In-patient admission daycase	Out-patient appointment
RPY	Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	2.4	3.4	n/a	2.4
ROM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	11.9	10.5	5.9	9.2	9.0	5.7
RON	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	12.5	8.3	3.6	9.9	8.3	7.4
ROX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	7.8	7.4	6.6	4.0	3.9	4.4
ROY	SW London and St. George's NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	3.4	n/a	n/a	3.2
RRV	University College London NHS Foundation Trust	11.9	8.4	6.9	8.6	7.2	6.5
RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	18.0	16.6	4.5	6.4	8.0	3.9
RV3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	5.9	n/a	n/a	4.8
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	18.2	11.0	7.0	11.8	9.8	9.4
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	20.4	11.1	8.6	13.7	11.6	8.3
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	18.8	11.6	6.6	12.6	6.	7.7
RWK	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	5.1	n/a	n/a	7.0
RC5	Harefield Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RDC	Wellhouse NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RDF	Forest Healthcare NHS Trust	22.3	17.8	10.3	n/a	n/a	n/a
RFZ	Northwick Park and St. Mark's NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RG4	Redbridge Health Care NHS Trust	20.3	15.7	7.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
RG7	Havering Hospitals NHS Trust	17.8	11.5	9.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
RG9	Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RHG	Richmond Twickenham and Roehampton Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RPX	Royal Brompton Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
R09	Bethlem and Maudsley NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	9.5	n/a	3.3	n/a	n/a	n/a

Organisation code	Organisation	Median waiting time (weeks) month end December 2006 In-patient admission ordinary	In-patient admission daycase	Out-patient appointment
RA1	Epsom Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAK	Royal London Hospital and Associated Community Services NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	6.8	8.7	4.7
RAZ	St. Helier NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAV	The Guy's and Lewisham NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAP	North Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	10.7	10.6	5.6

RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	8.6	6.9	5.8
RAN	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust London)	8.4	8.5	8.7
RAU	Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAR	Mount Vernon Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAS	Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	8.0	5.5	5.1
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	8.4	7.5	5.2
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	11.3	9.2	7.7
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	7.0	6.0	6.0
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	12.0	6.7	6.6
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	10.6	7.8	5.3
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	9.3	8.6	6.9
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	10.5	8.5	4.0
R31	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	8.5	6.9	8.1
R32	Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	9.4	8.7	6.8
RJ5	St Mary's NHS Trust	[1]5.5	[1]5.8	5.8
R36	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	6.7	6.5	6.2
RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	8.3	6.4	4.8
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Trust	8.3	7.3	4.6
RKE	Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	9.0	7.0	4.6
RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	4.6
RNH	Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	10.2	9.3	4.4
RNJ	Barts and the London NHS Trust	8.5	7.0	8.0
RNK	Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	7.2
RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	7.8	6.9	4.7
RP6	Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	7.7	8.9
RPY	Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	2.6	n/a	2.0
ROM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	9.2	8.7	6.0
RON	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	7.9	8.1	4.9
ROX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	7.3	5.7	4.5
ROY	SW London and St. George's NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	2.6
RRV	University College London NHS Foundation Trust	8.9	7.3	4.9
RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	7.1	5.6	4.<
RV3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	5.1
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	9.	9.e	6.4
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	9.9	9.7	7.0
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	8.8	7.0	5.4
RWK	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	5.4
RC5	Harefield Hospital NHS Trust	n/c	n/a	n/a
RDC	Wellhouse NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RDF	Forest Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RFZ	Northwick Park and St Mark's NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RG4	Redbridge Health Care NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RG7	Havering Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RG9	Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RHG	Richmond Twickenham and Roehampton Healthcare NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RPX	Royal Brompton Hospital NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
R09	Bethlem and Maudsley NHS Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a
RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] The September 2006 in-patient figures are used for St. Mary's NHS Trust due to pending revisions on the in-patient December 2006 data for this organisation.

Notes:

1. In-patient waiting time based on median wait of those still waiting at end of period.
2. Out-patient waiting times based on time waited for those seen during the quarter.

Source:

Department of Health, KH07 and QM08s

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in London waited for *(a)* 18 months and over, *(b)* 12 months and over and *(c)* six months and over for out-patient admission in each quarter of each of the last five years in each primary care trust. [132333]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally. The Department has not collected information on waits of over 26 weeks for out-patients since March 2004, as the current target is only 13 weeks. However, the following table shows how many patients waited over 26 weeks for out-patient admission in each London primary care trust (PCT) from 2002 to 2004.

Number waiting over 26 weeks for an out-patient appointment, June 2002 to March 2004, commissioner based

	Number waiting over 26 weeks, month end:							
Organisation	*June 2002*	*September 2002*	*December 2002*	*March 2003*	*June 2003*	*September 2003*	*December 2003*	*March 2004*
Havering PCT	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bromley PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich PCT	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Barnet PCT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bexley PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enfield PCT	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham PCT	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
City and Hackney PCT	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets PCT	24	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Newham PCT	70	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Haringey PCT	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ealing PCT	25	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hounslow PCT	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brent PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harrow PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camden PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Islington PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westminster PCT	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lambeth PCT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwark PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewisham PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth PCT	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton and Merton PCT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonstone PC	30	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT	39	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Redbridge PCT	36	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Redbridge PCT (new)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0
Waltham Forest PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0

Note:
In the financial year 2003-04 Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford PCT divided, part joined Redbridge PCT, which kept its name (and is differentiated from the old PCT using the name Redbridge PCT (new)). The other part joined Walthamstow, Leyton and Leytonshire PCT to become Waltham Forest PCT.

Source:
Department of Health, QM08r

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* gun-shot and *(b)* knife wound injuries were treated in hospitals in each of the last five years. [132317]

Andy Burnham: Information is not collected on the number of gun shot and knife wound injuries treated in hospitals.

Information is available, however, on patients who were actually admitted to hospital for gun shot and knife injuries (these figures do not include

patients who were treated in accident and emergency departments for gun shot/knife injuries and not admitted). Those cause codes that appear relevant to the question are presented in the table as follows.

Count of finished admission episodes for gun shot and knife wound injuries 2001-02 to 2005-06, national health service hospitals, England

		2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02
W32	Handgun discharge	44	38	68	68	68
W33	Rifle shotgun and larger firearm discharge	73	68	95	71	100
X72	Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge	10	15	7	11	12
X73	Intent self-harm by rifle shotgun and larger firearm discharge	17	7	6	7	14
X93	Assault by handgun discharge	44	37	49	47	42
X94	Assault by rifle shotgun and larger firearm discharge	51	51	50	56	64
Y22	Handgun discharge undetermined intent	9	9	6	9	7
Y23	Rifle shotgun and larger firearm discharge undetermined intent	11	7	19	17	17
	Total	259	232	300	286	324
W26	Contact with knife sword or dagger	5,321	4,939	4,872	4,842	4,672

Notes:
Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Cause code
The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.
Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate she has made of the number of people suffering from *(a)* personality disorder and *(b)* dangerous and severe personality disorder; [133046]

(2) how many people are *(a)* detained and *(b)* receiving treatment for (i) personality disorder and (ii) dangerous severe personality disorder. [133047]

Ms Rosie Winterton: *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: Personality disorders are common conditions, with a considerable variation in the severity and degree of distress and dysfunction caused. An independent study, "The Epidemiology of Personality Disorders" by Dr. Paul Moran, in 2002 reported a prevalence rate of personality disorder amongst adults in the community of 10 to 13 per cent. However, this estimate is for all personality disorders, and a separate prevalence rate for dangerous and severe personality disorder (DSPD) was not made in the Moran study.

Approximately 250 to 300 people are being treated and supported by established specialist national health service personality disorder services, without any form of detention, and an additional 1300 people in new medium secure, community forensic and non-forensic pilot services. Of the latter, about 50 people at any one time will be undergoing in-patient assessment or treatment under sections of the Mental Health Act. There are 40 secure places within forensic mental health services for people with personality disorder who need treatment under detention. A further 400 male patients are detained on court orders under the legal category of psychopathic disorder in secure psychiatric hospitals.

DSPD is not a clinical diagnosis but a description of a patient profile for those whose personality disorder is of an acuteness or severity and risk to indicate they are likely to be the most serious threat to others. There are an estimated 2,000 to 2,500 individuals in the prison population who meet DSPD criteria. Although there are no existing research data on the number of people with DSPD in the community, further work has been commissioned to provide prospective data about the size of this group, which are expected to be available later this year.

DSPD pilot services are provided within Rampton and Broadmoor high secure hospitals and Her Majesty's Prisons at Whitemoor, Frankland and Low Newton. The current figures for those receiving assessment and treatment within these services is 66 in the national health service and 143 in the prison estate. All are detained, with a majority serving current prison sentences.

MRSA

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what techniques and procedures are being used to combat MRSA in NHS hospitals; what use is being made of hydrogen peroxide; how widely it is being used for this purpose; and if she will make a statement. [132757]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: As part of the Saving Lives programme, which is designed to support national health service trusts in reducing healthcare associated infections like methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), high impact interventions have been developed. The high impact interventions are simple evidence based tools. They reinforce the practical actions that clinical staff need to undertake every time for key procedures in order to significantly reduce healthcare-associated infections including MRSA. They cover preventing the risk of

microbial contamination (which includes hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, aseptic technique and safe disposal of sharps), central venous catheter care, peripheral line care, renal dialysis catheter care, preventing surgical site infection, care of ventilated patients and urinary catheter care.

The Department also published enhanced advice on screening, including decolonisation, in November 2006.

The Rapid Review Panel (RRP) has reviewed two hydrogen peroxide vapour products and recommended that both products have potential value and that in use trials are now needed. Trials have been undertaken within the national health service and these products have been utilised in outbreak situations.

It is not known how widely hydrogen peroxide vapour is used in the NHS. The NHS does not collect data regarding the usage of products by individual trusts or collectively for the NHS. NHS trusts are free to choose which products to purchase and will maintain their own records.

The Department is liaising with all the bodies which play a role in the assessment of innovative products about how the Department might best assist the take-up of products that have a favourable RRP recommendation. Discussions are at an early stage. Ultimately, they will include how innovative products are assessed for cost-effectiveness and their impact on services, thus creating a more streamlined process.

NHS: Finance

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been awarded by her Department under "Our health, our care, our community" since July 2006, broken down by *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust; how many bids have been submitted; what the final period is for the submission of bids; and if she will make a statement. [126426]

Andy Burnham: Ten proposals were received in wave 1. An announcement about four of these was made on the 21 December. Two of the schemes were withdrawn, one did not meet the criteria and we are resolving an outstanding query on one of the schemes. Two of the schemes were carried forward and announced with the second wave.

The funding allocated to these four schemes totals £44.5 million, and the following chart breaks this down into strategic health authority (SHAs) and primary care trust (PCT) area, and the amount allocated to each scheme.

SHA	PCT	Amount awarded (£ million)
North East	Sunderland (Washington Primary care centre)	8.96
South Central	Hampshire (Gosport War Memorial Hospital)	6.122
South West	South Gloucestershire (Yate Community Health Centre)	5
South West	Somerset (West Somerset Healthy Living Park)	24.5
Total		44.58

Decisions are still outstanding on the following schemes.

SHA	PCT	Amount requested (£ million)
Outstanding from wave one		
East Midlands	Lincolnshire (Stamford and Rutland Hospital)	0.5
Outstanding from wave two		
North East	Hartlepool (Primary care centre—Hartlepool)	7.25
North East	Berwick upon Tweed (Community Hospital Berwick)	24.701
Yorkshire and Humber	North East Lincolnshire (Primary care centre—Grimsby)	2.225
Yorkshire and Humber	North Yorkshire and York (New Community campus—Selby War Memorial Hospital)	3.65
South West Peninsula	Gloucestershire (New community services—Bourton and Moreton)	13.23
South West Peninsula	Gloucestershire (New facilities for community services—Berkley Vale)	6.46
South West Peninsula	Gloucestershire (Refurbishment—Cirencester Hospital)	0.25
South West Peninsula	Gloucestershire (Refurbishment—Stroud Hospital)	1.1
South West Peninsula	South Gloucestershire (Community Hospital—Kingswood)	16.99
South West Peninsula	Bath and North East Somerset (Community care centre—Keynsham)	6.51
South West Peninsula	North Somerset (Redevelopment—Clevedon Hospital)	15.13
South West Peninsula	Somerset (Redevelopment—South Petherton Hospital)	15.32
South West Peninsula	Wiltshire (Redevelopment Chippenham Hospital)	17.85
South West Peninsula	Wiltshire (Primary Care Centre—Salisbury)	32.92
South West Peninsula	Wiltshire (Primary Care Centre—Salisbury)	11.6
South West Peninsula	Bournemouth and Poole (Community hospital Boscombe)	7.17
South West Peninsula	Torbay (Redevelopment—Brixham Hospital)	10.34
Total		193.20

Twenty-five schemes were submitted in wave 2. We approved and announced details of 10 schemes, including two that were carried forward from wave 1, on 11 April.

The schemes announced on 11 April are listed in the following table.

SHA	PCT	Amount awarded (£ million)
South Central	Southampton City (Royal South Hampshire Hospital)	6.079
East of England	Suffolk (Felixstowe Community Hospitals)	1.76
London	Barking and Dagenham (Barking Hospital)	5
London	Richmond and Twickenham (New health and social care centre—Teddington Memorial Hospital)	3.98
London	Haringey (Hornsey Central Hospital)	1.6
Yorkshire and Humber	Calderdale and Kirklees (Redevelopment of Sites—Huddersfield)	12.91
Yorkshire and Humber	Rotherham (Primary care centre—Rotherham)	0.961
East Midlands	Nottinghamshire County (Redevelopment of Ashfield Hospital)	1.149
South West	Bristol (South Bristol Community Hospital)	3.9
South East Coast	Hastings and Rother (Station Plaza Primary Health Centre)	12
Total		49.34

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the group tasked with the review of general medical services funding to report on its findings and recommendations. [131933]

Andy Burnham: The report of the general medical services global sum formula review group, which contains a number of recommendations on changes to the current formula, is now available. The report is currently out for consultation until 11 May. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* total expenditure on enhanced services under the General Medical Services contract and *(b)* the total primary care trust enhanced services expenditure floor was expected to be in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; what actual expenditure on enhanced services was in 2005-06; and what expenditure on enhanced services she expects in 2006-07. [131962]

Andy Burnham: Total expenditure on enhanced services under the new general medical services contract (over the period 2004-05 to 2006-07) is estimated to be £2,067 million.

In 2005-06, the total primary care trust (PCT) enhanced services floor was £676 million. For 2006-07, it was agreed with the British Medical Association's General Practitioner Committee that enhanced services floors would be frozen at 2005-06 levels.

The overall level of investment by PCTs in 2005-06 is £655 million (based on their audited annual accounts). Forecasts received from PCTs for 2006-07 indicates an overall spend on enhanced services of £824 million.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to launch the £50 million advertising campaign to tackle sexually transmitted infections announced on 26 November 2004. [131905]

Caroline Flint: The Department's new adult sexual health campaign, "Condom Essential Wear", was launched in November 2006. Approximately £6 million was spent on the campaign in the last financial year on a combination of TV, cinema, radio, press and digital advertising backed by extensive public relations, partnership marketing and the creation of two bespoke websites.

Funding for the campaign, which targets some of the hardest to reach young people who are at risk of contracting a sexually transmitted infection, has been agreed at £4 million for the financial year 2007-08. It is too early to say what the funding levels will be for 2008-09.

Young People: Drugs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the potential impact on young people of the proposed changes to funding for drug and alcohol action teams. [133476]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Drug use among young people is assessed through the Schools Survey and British Crime Survey. Class A drug use is stable and there have been significant reductions in frequent use of any drug by young people. The Government are making £55 million available in 2007-08 to support prevention, early intervention and treatment services for young people experiencing problems with drugs to be used alongside mainstream funding.

PRIME MINISTER

Honours (Prevention of Abuses) Act 1925

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will review the operation of the Honours (Prevention of Abuses) Act 1925. [134090]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 26 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 2271W.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134047]

The Deputy Prime Minister: All the paper used in my Office since its establishment in May 2006 has been from 100 per cent. recycled sources.

Departments: Parliamentary Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to his Department for oral answer have been transferred to other departments since May 2005. [133794]

The Deputy Prime Minister: No oral questions have been transferred to other departments since the establishment of my Office in May 2006.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Employment Agencies: EC Action

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister without Portfolio what responsibilities she has for *(a)* the Agency Workers Directive and *(b)* other EU legislation. [134212]

The Minister without Portfolio: As part of my cross-cutting ministerial role, I am involved in the consideration of specific policy issues as appropriate.

European Parliament

Mr. Brady: To ask the Minister without Portfolio for what purpose she visited the European Parliament on 11 April. [134211]

The Minister without Portfolio: I visited Brussels on 10 April to undertake meetings on the Agency Workers Directive. My visit to the European Parliament on 11 April was not made in my ministerial capacity.

Legislation

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many pages of new primary legislation were enacted in each year since 1997. [133219]

Hilary Armstrong: Statistical information on the number of pages of legislation broken down on a calendar year basis can be found in Standard Note SN/SG/2911 "Acts and Statutory Instruments: Volume of UK legislation 1950 to 2006" and is available in the Library for the reference of Members. It can also be obtained on line at:

http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/notes/snsg-02911.pdf.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1349W, on primary care trusts (PCTs), what the reasons were for the selection of each PCT visited last year; which Ministers have received copies of the resulting reports; and to whom copies of these reports were circulated. [134147]

Hilary Armstrong: Within the last year, the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) has carried out eight reviews on different governmental delivery and reform priorities, which involved visits to 35 primary care trusts (PCTs). For each review a number of sites were chosen to ask front line staff about their experience of delivery and the issues they face. The sites were chosen on the basis of a PCTs characteristics (e.g. urban or rural populations) and local circumstances.

The final reports that were produced following each of these reviews were developed jointly with the Department of Health, and act as confidential advice to the Prime Minister, Department of Health Ministers and Secretary of State. Each report was circulated by the PMDU to the Prime Minister. In addition, the Department of Health lead official for each review also circulated the report to relevant senior officials within the Department of Health and to relevant Ministers and/or Secretary of State.

Only one of the eight reviews involved three Government Departments, and as such was therefore shared with the senior officials, and Ministers/ Secretaries of State, as appropriate from the Department of Health, Department for Education and Skills, and the Department for Culture Media and Sport.

Training: Treasury

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 355W, on training: Treasury, which Ministers attended each listed course. [133421]

Hilary Armstrong: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent to him by the National School of Government's principal and chief executive on 15 March 2007 which sets out detailed information on the number of Ministers participating in the learning and development provided by the National School. A copy of the letter is available in the Library for the reference of Members. It would not be appropriate to release the more detailed information you requested.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Armed Conflict: Finance

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding and resources *(a)* were committed in each of the last three financial years and *(b)* are pledged for each of the next three financial years for the global conflict prevention pool, broken down by regional pool. [134126]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

The 2004 comprehensive spending round settlement allocated a baseline figure of £74 million each financial year (FY) for the global conflict prevention pool (GCPP) for FY 2004-05 to FY 2007-08. The following table illustrates how funds were allocated to each of the GCPP strategies in each FY. Overall allocation totals each year do not amount to the baseline settlement figure as the pool has a reserve for unplanned activity.

carried forward from in-year underspend under Government accounting rules.

The table also includes figures for the current financial year.

£ million

GCPP Strategy	Financial Years 2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Afghanistan - Counter Narcotics	11,471,576	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Afghanistan - Main	15,350,000	10,000,000	9,500,000	11,500,000
Balkans	10,450,000	8,250,000	7,500,000	7,500,000
Caribbean	1,000,000	750,000	750,000	750,000
Central and Eastern Europe (closed in 2006-07)	3,450,000	300,000		
India - Pakistan	[1]350,000	1,000,000	750,000	750,000
Indonesia - East Timor	1,200,000	750,000	500,000	500,000
Iraq	18,342,375	13,880,000	[1]9,500,000	14,000,000
Latin America (incl. Belize/Guatemala)	1,350,000	1,250,000	750,000	750,000
Middle East/North Africa	5,500,000	5,000,000	4,500,000	2,500,000
Nepal	5,500,000	2,000,000	[2]5,200,000	2,300,000
Russia/Commonwealth of Independent States	11,300,000	6,500,000	6,000,000	5,100,000
Security Sector Reform	4,700,000	7,000,000	6,250,000	6,250,000
Small Arms and Light Weapons	5,500,000	4,000,000	3,250,000	3,250,000
Sri Lanka	1,000,000	750,000	500,000	500,000
United Nations	8,600,000	8,500,000	7,500,000	7,400,000
Total	106,063,951	79,930,000	71,750,000	73,050,000

[1] Includes a £7 million in-year uplift from the reserve.
[2] Includes a £3.7 million in-year uplift from the reserve

Funding for the three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11 will be agreed as part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Secondary Schools: Parental Choice

12. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what initiatives his Department is pursuing to increase parental choice of secondary schools. [133964]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to creating a real choice of excellent schools for parents. We have placed new duties on local authorities to plan schools with a view to increasing parental choice and to respond to parents. We have created opportunities for new providers to set up schools through competitions. We have introduced a fairer admissions system, with help for parents to exercise their choices, and we have extended parents' rights to free school transport.

Accessible Textbooks

14. **Mr. Hunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance his Department has issued to local education authorities on the provision of accessible textbooks; and if he will make a statement. [133967]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has published a training resource "Implementing the Disability Discrimination Act in schools and early years settings" for schools and local authorities to help them meet their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

This includes guidance to schools to help them develop their accessibility plans, covering planning improvements to the provision of written materials for disabled pupils over time. All schools can obtain a copy of the resource from DfES Publications.

Framework for Excellence

15. **Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Learning and Skills Council plans to take to reflect the different roles and objectives of further education and sixth form colleges when aggregating performance measures into a single star rating as proposed under the framework for excellence. [133970]

Bill Rammell: The framework for excellence arrangements will take account of the aims and missions of individual colleges and providers. The Learning and Skills Council will pilot the arrangements for the framework fully during the academic year 2007-08, including developing and testing the processes and criteria for deriving each institution's overall performance rating. The LSC will publish further details on the piloting arrangements in about two months' time.

Secondary School Standards

16. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to raise standards in secondary schools. [133971]

Jim Knight: We are investing over £1 billion in personalising learning by 2008.

The Secondary National Strategy provides training and support for teachers, including resources and materials for intervention and personalised learning.

As a result, the number of schools with less than 25 per cent. of pupils achieving five or more good GCSEs is down from 616 to 47, and 86,555 more students achieved that standard than in 1997.

Reforms at 14-19 will improve vocational skills and will ensure that pupils leave school with functional skills in English, maths and ICT.

Academy Schools

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many academy schools are planned to open in the next 12 months. [133966]

Jim Knight: There are currently 47 academies open, and we anticipate that around 35 further academies will be opened in the next 12 months.

Adult Education: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many adult learners entered higher education in Copeland in 2005-06. [133483]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table.

Number of entrants to undergraduate courses[1] from Copeland parliamentary constituency by age—UK higher education institutions—academic year 2005/06

Age	*Number of entrants*
Under 18	30
18	230
19	65
20	30
21 and over	445
Total	800

[1] Covers full-time and part-time modes of study.

Note:
Figures are based on the HESA Standard Registration Population and are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

City Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills who the sponsor or sponsors are of each academy; and how much each has contributed. [133035]

Jim Knight: There are 47 academies now open. Information on the sponsor of each academy and the sponsors' donations received to date towards open academies' capital costs—rather than total sponsorship committed—is given in the following table.

Sponsorship for the first academies has been provided in the form of a contribution to the capital costs of buildings. However, we have changed the sponsorship model and sponsors will now, as the norm, establish an endowment fund worth £2 million (or £1.5 million for the fourth or subsequent academy for sponsors of multiple academies), with a minimum of £500,000 payable in the first year. Payment of the endowment will normally be over five years. To date, only one open academy, St Mark's academy in Merton, has this form of sponsorship.

Sponsors' donations contributing to capital costs are normally made over the lifetime of the building costs of the project, so in some cases a number of payments towards capital costs remain to be made. In other cases, sponsors' payments have been made, but are not recorded in the table as auditors have not yet completed their checks on whether these were spent on capital or recurrent costs.

We do not keep a record of sponsors' non-capital donations to academies.

Open Academy Name	*Sponsor(s)*	*£000 Total evidence of use of sponsor contributions to end of March 2007*
The Business Academy, Bexley	Garrard Education Trust	2,462
Greig City Academy, Haringey	Greig Trust with the London Diocesan Board for Schools	1,664
Unity City Academy, Middlesbrough	Amey plc	1,948
City Academy, Bristol	John Laycock/University of the West of England	1,670
Capital City, Brent	Sir Frank Lowe	1,993
City of London Academy, Southwark	Corporation of London	2,000
Djanogly City Academy, Nottingham	Sir Harry Djanogly	0
King's Academy, Middlesbrough	Emmanuel Schools Foundation	2,006
Manchester Academy	United Learning Trust (ULT)	1,286
The Academy at Peckham, Southwark	Harris Charitable Trust/Whitgift Foundation	2,986
The Walsall City Academy	The Mercers' Company/Thomas Telford Online	2,512
The West London Academy, Baling	Alec Reed	2,000
Lambeth Academy	ULT	1,500
The London Academy, Barnet	Peter Shalson	1,490
Mossbourne Community Academy, Hackney	Sir Clive Bourne	1,631
Northampton Academy	ULT	654
Stockley Academy, Hillingdon	Barry Townsley and others	1,452
Dixons City Academy, Bradford	Dixons CTC Trust	612
Harefield Academy, Hillingdon	David Meller and others	42
Marlowe Academy, Kent	Roger de Haan / Kent County Council	2,183
The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi, Liverpool	Diocese of Liverpool/RC Archdiocese of Liverpool	950
St Paul's Academy, Greenwich	Archdiocese of Southwark	200
Trinity Academy, Doncaster	Emmanuel Schools Foundation	2,000
North Liverpool Academy	Liverpool University/Granada Learning	0

Open Academy Name	Sponsor(s)	£000 Total evidence of use of sponsor contributions to end of March 2007
Harris Academy Merton	Harris Charitable Trust	0
Grace Academy, Solihull	Bob Edmiston	2,000
Walthamstow Academy, Waltham Forest	ULT	27
Paddington Academy	ULT	429
David Young Community Academy, Leeds	Diocese of Ripon and Leeds	1,000
Harris Girls Academy East Dulwich	Harris Charitable Trust	0
The Harris Bermondsey Academy	Harris Charitable Trust	0
Sheffield Springs	ULT	1,500
Sheffield Park	ULT	1,000
Landau Forte College, Derby	Landau Forte Academy Trust	2
Westminster Academy	Exilarch's Foundation	0
The Petchey Academy, Hackney	Jack Petchey Foundation	932
The Burlington Danes Academy, Hammersmith and Fulham	ARK	0
Barnsley Academy	ULT	27
The John Madejski Academy, Reading	John Madejski	1,820
Sandwell Academy	Mercers Company Thomas Telford Online, HSBC, West Brom Albion FC, Tarmac Group	1,692
Haberdashers' Knights Academy	Haberdashers1 Livery Company	296
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy	Haberdashers' Livery Company	705
Salford City Academy	ULT	214
Gateway Academy, Thurrock	Ormiston Trust	0
Macmillan Academy, Middlesbrough	Macmillan CTC	400
St Mark's Academy, Merton[1]	Diocese of Southwark/CfBT Educational Trust/Toe H	0
Madeley Academy, Telford and Wrekin	Thomas Telford On-line	0

[1] £2 million sponsorship to be invested in endowment fund as opposed to towards capital costs

Dentistry: Admissions

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) in what month of the academic year students who are applying to read dentistry at university are required to submit their University and College Admissions Service applications; and what the average time was to inform such students of the outcome of their application in the latest period for which figures are available; [133284]

(2) what the maximum number of universities is to which students applying to read dentistry may apply; and whether that figure differs from other university courses; [133285]

(3) what impact the requirement for students applying to read dentistry at university to make a dental-specific University and College Admission Service application has on their prospects of being accepted on other university courses should they not be accepted on a dentistry course. [133286]

Bill Rammell: The deadline for applications to dentistry is 15 October. Institutions are advised to contact UCAS by 31 March with their decisions, and the rejected by default date is 9 May.

Applicants may make four course choices for dentistry. Medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and veterinary science applications are all restricted to four choices with a deadline of 15 October. All other subjects have an advisory deadline of 15 January with up to six choices available. There are also separate arrangements for Oxford and Cambridge applications.

In their original application the applicant makes six choices in total, only four of which can be in dentistry. The final two choices can be in any subject. Should all of the applicant's choices be unsuccessful, opportunities to apply for courses remain through UCAS Extra and through the clearing system in August.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many applications there were to read dentistry at university in *(a)* the 2004-05, *(b)* the 2005-06 and *(c)* the 2006-07 academic years; and how many applications were successful in each year. [133287]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 25 April 2007]*: The figures are shown in the table.

Applicants and accepted applicants to full-time courses in pre-clinical dentistry

	Applicants	Accepted applicants
2004-05	2,118	989
2005-06	2,621	1,187
2006-07	2,577	1,114

Source: Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS).

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* extra-curricular and *(b)* work experience activities are prerequisites for students who wish to apply for dentistry at university. [133288]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 25 April 2007]*: The criteria used to assess applicants are a matter for individual universities.

The guidance in the UCAS publication on "Progression to Medicine and Dentistry" advises that

"Without doubt, admissions tutors for both medicine and dentistry look for strong academic ability, just to prove your ability to cope with straight science, plus clear evidence of a commitment to medicine or dentistry as a career (which can usually be demonstrated via work experience placements)."

In one of the case studies in this publication, work experience in a local dental practice is cited.

Education: EC Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the status is of discussions to establish an European Union-wide common school text book; and if he will make a statement. [133101]

Bill Rammell: No formal discussions have taken place at the level of the United Kingdom or the European Union with a view to establishing a European Union-wide common school textbook. The Department would oppose such a textbook, should it be formally proposed, as it is an important part of schools' autonomy that they are able to decide which resources they use to reach their teaching objectives. Furthermore, the implementation of such an EU-level proposal would be entirely at the discretion of each member state, as there is very little European Community competence in the field of education and training.

Education: EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which projects were funded in support of the last European Youth Week; and what projects are planned in the UK for the next one. [133100]

Bill Rammell: The Government do not fund any events for European Youth Week. It is for individual youth organisations to decide how they will participate in this event.

The UK does send a delegation, selected and organised by youth organisations and their national representative bodies, to the annual Brussels event.

English Language: Au Pairs

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in what circumstances a person living in the UK and working as an au pair from *(a)* an EU and *(b)* a non-EU state may qualify for full fee remission for English for Speakers of Other Languages fees; and for how long such a person needs to be resident in the UK before qualifying. [124882]

Phil Hope: Since 2001, people enrolling on Learning and Skills Council (LSC) supported English for Speakers of Other Languages courses have been entitled to automatic fee remission provided that they meet the LSC's eligibility criteria for publicly funded further education.

Entry to a course by any learner will depend on an initial assessment which confirms that a Skills for Life ESOL course is the most appropriate way of meeting their learning needs. For au pairs, this is unlikely to be the case as Skills for Life ESOL courses are intended to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged learners in settled communities, not those who are temporarily in the UK possibly with the intention of learning English.

However, if ESOL is appropriate, the following eligibility and fee arrangements apply:

Under the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) Funding Guidance for 2006/07, the general rule for public funding of further education (FE) is that the learner should have been resident in the UK for three years. Citizens of European Union (EU) countries are also generally considered to be eligible, as long as they have lived in the European Economic Area (EEA) for three years. This three-year residency requirement applies equally to UK citizens who have not been resident in the UK/EEA.

However, there are already a number of exceptions to this rule that take account of exceptional circumstances. For example, newly arrived spouses do not have to wait the normal three-year period. Provided they are married to a UK resident with settled status they become eligible for FE provision once they have been resident in the UK for one year.

These residency requirements reflect the Government's view that it is reasonable to expect a person to have established a relevant connection with the UK before being allowed to benefit from funding provided by UK taxpayers. These arrangements are long standing and have generally proved to be a fair measure for determining fee status. The eligibility rules must be met by all adults seeking to qualify under the 'home' fees criteria, including UK nationals returning to this country from outside the EU.

Although there is no change to the eligibility conditions set out above, changes announced to fee remission will apply to all eligible learners. From August 2007, there will be no automatic fee remission for ESOL courses. Learners who can afford to do so will be asked to make a contribution to the cost of learning at a rate of 37.5 per cent. of the course fee with the Government still paying the majority of the cost. Those who are on benefits or who can evidence very low incomes will be entitled to fee remission.

English Language: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people in each London borough he estimates are eligible for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses with full fee remittance. [131007]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* All learners eligible for support from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and enrolling on Skills for Life ESOL courses are currently entitled to automatic fee remission. Because entitlement is automatic, the LSC does not require evidence related to concessionary fees to be collected on its Individualised Learner Records. Consequently, it is not possible to use this information either to calculate those who would be entitled to full fee remission under current arrangements or to predict accurately for the future.

However, some evidence has been gathered to help clarify the number of people who will continue to be entitled to full fee remission from August 2007 when ESOL courses will no longer attract automatic fee remission and free tuition will only be available to priority groups, such as people who are unemployed or receiving income-based benefits.

For example, the South London Learning Partnership carried out a questionnaire with 12 providers covering 2,615 learners. Of these 35 per cent. are employed, of whom 89 per cent. have an income of 15,000 or below, and 51 per cent. are in receipt of

benefits. Of the remainder, 19 per cent. thought they would be able to pay. On this evidence, the majority of learners seeking ESOL courses would be entitled to full fee remission.

Further Education: Curriculum

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on plans for the post-16 curriculum. [133959]

Bill Rammell: Post-16 students choose a curriculum best suited to their individual needs, interests and aspirations. If the leaving age is raised to 18 as we propose, it is crucial to ensure there is an appropriate curriculum for everyone. We are ensuring a greater post-16 choice through the introduction of employer designed diplomas, reforms to A-level and increased access to the International Baccalaureate.

Headteachers: Vacancies

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the measures set out in the response to the Committee of Public Accounts' 59th Report of 2005-06 on the level of head teacher vacancies. [133969]

Jim Knight: Since 1997, head teacher vacancies have remained low and fairly stable. Provisional figures released today show a fall in the head teacher vacancy rate for the maintained sector from 0.8 per cent. in January 2006 to 0.6 per cent. in January 2007. However, we know that some types of schools such as church schools, schools in London and some small schools in rural areas find it harder to recruit senior staff than others.

Regarding the specific work highlighted in our response to the PAC report, we have made progress on a number of fronts. On vacancy filling, we have provided an additional £10 million funding to the National College for School Leadership (NCSL) to extend its support to schools and local authorities on succession planning. The NCSL is also strengthening work with governor organisations including advice on recruiting school leaders. We have further developed initiatives on bringing on new talent, including the Fast Track and Future Leader programmes. Revised professional standards for teachers, from September 2007, will provide all teachers with a clear, coherent and progressive set of career pathways and help them to prepare for leadership. More broadly, the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) study identified a number of issues affecting recruitment to leadership positions and we will be working with key stakeholders, including the social partners, to make progress on these issues.

Higher Education: Scholarships

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the total value was on income-assessed non-repayable student bursaries administered by the Student Loans Company on behalf of higher education institutions in each year since 2001; [131428]

(2) how many income-assessed non-repayable student bursaries were administered by the Student Loans Company on behalf of higher education institutions in each year since 2001. [131429]

Bill Rammell: The Student Loans Company (SLC) have offered a bursary payment and administration service on behalf of individual higher education institutions since academic year 2006/07. The value and number of bursaries administered by SLC to date are as follows.

	Value/ Number
Value of 2006/07 bursaries paid to date by SLC on behalf of HEIs[1] (£ million)	44.672
Number of 2006/07 bursaries paid to date by SLC on behalf HEIs[1]	75,523

[1] Figures relate to HEIs in England and Northern Ireland are correct as at 11 April 2007

It should be noted that these figures only represent a part-academic year, and cover only HEIs that have opted to use the SLC's full bursary payment and administration service.

The Office for Fair Access (OFFA) is responsible for the annual monitoring of access agreements from academic year 2006/07 and will report on the outcome in autumn/winter 2007.

We are aware that following the introduction of access agreements in 2006, higher education institutions have budgeted to spend in excess of £300 million on bursaries and scholarships benefiting students from low-income backgrounds and other underrepresented groups by 2010-11.

Higher Education: Science

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many undergraduate places there were at universities in England for *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biology and *(d)* mathematics in each of the last five years; and how many of these places were filled. [132870]

Bill Rammell: Information on the number of places available for each subject is not held centrally. The allocation of places for particular subjects is a matter for individual higher education institutions.

The latest available information is shown in the table; comparable figures for the 2006/07 academic year will be available in January 2008.

Number of students[1]—enrolled on undergraduate courses, by subject—English higher education institutions academic years 2002/03 to 2005/06

	Subject			
Academic year	*Physics*	*Chemistry*	*Biology*	*Mathematics*
2002/03[2]	7,595	10,455	14,140	14,455
2003/04	7,960	10,275	15,215	17,185

Number of students[1]—enrolled on undergraduate courses, by subject—English higher education institutions academic years 2002/03 to 2005/06

	Subject			
Academic year	*Physics*	*Chemistry*	*Biology*	*Mathematics*
2004/05	9,255	10,810	16,125	18,375
2005/06	9,445	10,610	16,805	19,840

[1] Covers students on full-time and part-time modes of study, from the UK and overseas.
[2] Excludes the Open University. Prior to 2003/04, all students at the Open University were recorded in the "Combined Subjects" category.
Notes:
Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Nutrition: Curriculum

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what consideration has been given to including practical lessons about healthy food in the primary curriculum. [133429]

Jim Knight: Practical food lessons are a statutory requirement within the primary National Curriculum. Pupils carry out practical tasks that develop their knowledge, skills and understanding, including the importance of healthy eating. For example, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority Schemes of Work include units on eating more fruit and vegetables and healthy sandwiches. The Department funds Food Partnerships where expert secondary food technology teachers train and support primary colleagues in practical food lessons.

Outdoor Education: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* secondary school pupils have participated in field visits and outdoor learning as a result of the London Challenge Residential Courses programme. [132915]

Jim Knight: A total of 31,245 pupils from 295 London secondary schools have participated—or will shortly be participating in—a range of residential courses that have been funded by the London Challenge programme.

Personal Social and Health Education: UK Membership of EC

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library the guidance provided by his Department to schools on the Key Stage 4 scheme of work for citizenship in sections entitled *(a)* How am I part of Europe?, *(b)* Euro versus pound and *(c)* Debate on the Euro. [133102]

Jim Knight: The Department has not issued guidance additional to that which is contained within the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QC) Key Stage 4 scheme of work.

Schools are not obliged to follow the QCA schemes of work. These are offered as exemplars and can be adopted or adapted as schools decide.

Pupil Exclusions: Intimidation

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were excluded for racist bullying in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [133968]

Jim Knight: In 2004-05, the most recent year for which we have data, there were 40 permanent and 3,390 fixed period exclusions for racist abuse. In addition there were 130 permanent and 7,680 fixed period exclusions for all types of bullying. We deplore racist bullying and fully back teachers and head teachers in taking tough action whenever it occurs.

Pupil Referral Units

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Government have spent on pupils in pupil referral units with *(a)* unstatemented special educational needs, *(b)* statemented special educational needs and *(c)* special educational needs both statemented and unstatemented in each year from 1997 to 2006. [132884]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect the information in the format requested. However, the following table provides details of the total planned expenditure on the provision of education at Pupil Referral Units and total expenditure on SEN pupils both statemented and unstatemented as it is not possible to extract this information. Comparable data are not available prior to 2000-01.

Budgeted net expenditure by local authorities on the provision of education for children with special educational needs[1,2] and budgeted net expenditure by local authorities on the provision of education for children at Pupil Referral Units[2] in England: 2000-01 to 2006-07

£

	Budgeted net expenditure by local authorities on the provision of education for children with special educational needs[1,2]	*Budgeted net expenditure by local authorities on the provision of education at Pupil Referral Units[2]*
2000-01	2,763,226,000	100,309,000
2001-02	2,908,380,000	108,467,000
2002-03	3,038,661,000	134,741,000
2003-04	3,466,180,000	177,444,000
2004-05	3,774,757,000	198,644,000
2005-06	4,120,549,000	227,794,000
2006-07	4,477,300,000	265,256,000

[1] Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools. Does not include any planned expenditure on pupils with SEN attending Pupil Referral Units (PRUs).

[2] The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN and, from 2004-05 onwards, "notional SEN" delegated to nursery schools was reported on section 52 for the first time (nursery schools "notional SEN" accounts for £7.8 million, £9.5 million and £10.3 million of the respective 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 totals). In 2005-06 and 2006-07, local authorities also budgeted £499.6 million and £528.5 million for SEN transport expenditure but this is not included in the above table as figures are not available prior to 2005-06.

[3] Includes planned expenditure on the provision of education at Pupil Referral Units as defined in section 19 of the 1996 Act. In addition to the figures quoted above, Pupil Referral Units were also allocated School Standards Grants of £7.6 million in 2006-07.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 and may not sum due to rounding.
2. The data are drawn from local authorities section 52 Budget Statements (tables 1 and 2) submitted to the DfES. Data are not available prior to 2000-01.
3. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 18 April 2007.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average spending per pupil was in each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in the County of Durham in each of the last five years. [133446]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the House Library.

School: Sports

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of school sport helpers who have begun working in schools in the last six months. [133426]

Jim Knight: Through the national School Sport Strategy's sports leadership and volunteering programme:

6,433 young volunteers are engaged in sports volunteering in their schools and local communities; and,

over 16,000 students were this year involved in planning and running over 1,800 festivals of sport and sports days.

Schools: Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance he has given schools on the use and suitability of temporary classrooms; and if he will make a statement. [132916]

Jim Knight: The Department's guidance encourages authorities and schools to fully consider and compare the costs and benefits of options for the provision of accommodation.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.4 billion in 2007-08 and will rise further to £8 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made year by year in improving the quality of the school building stock. Given the high levels of funding, authorities have the opportunity to replace temporary classrooms where they are considered to be unsuitable.

Table 1: number[1] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age in out of school day care—position at 31 March each year

London boroughs	*1997[2]*	*2006[3]*
Inner London		
City of London	70	200
Camden	n/a	1,700
Hackney	1,110	2,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	n/a	1,000
Haringey	200	1,700
Islington	1,100	1,300
Kensington and Chelsea	700	1,500
Lambeth	n/a	1,900
Lewisham	1,000	2,200
Newham	200	1,900
Southwark	2,100	4,200
Tower Hamlets	n/a	1,400
Wandsworth	1,000	3,600
Westminster	700	1,100
Outer London		
Barking and Dagenham	200	700
Barnet	300	3,100
Bexley	200	800
Brent	300	1,300
Bromley	300	2,400
Croydon	700	3,700
Ealing	500	2,100
Enfield	300	1,800
Greenwich	200	2,300
Harrow	200	1,400
Havering	300	1,100
Hillingdon	100	1,700
Hounslow	600	1,400
Kingston upon Thames	300	1,300
Merton	300	2,200
Redbridge	200	1,300
Richmond upon Thames	400	1,800
Sutton	100	1,200
Waltham Forest	n/a	2,000

n/a = Not available.

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 places.

[2] Data source: Children's Day Care Facilities Survey.

[3] Data source: Ofsted.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary schools were taught in temporary accommodation in each London borough in each year since 1997. [132917]

Jim Knight: Data showing numbers of temporary buildings have been received from local education authorities for three years since 1997, but the data do not show numbers of pupils taught in those buildings.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in

1996-97 to £6.4 billion in 2007-08 and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. Given the high levels of funding, authorities have the opportunity to replace temporary classrooms where they are considered to be unsuitable.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on school buildings in each of the last 30 years at current prices. [133449]

Jim Knight: Expenditure on school buildings in England each year is determined by each local authority, using both resources both from the Department for Education and Skills and other resources available locally. Accordingly, no central records are kept of expenditure at local authority level. Capital allocations for school buildings and associated capital infrastructure in each of the last 30 years are set out in the following table, in £ billion.

These include ICT capital allocations and, from commencement in 1998-99, projects funded through PFI. Capital expenditure by local authorities will not necessarily be incurred in the year allocations are announced, owing to timing differences.

Allocation figures have been converted to current prices using the 2005-06 GDP deflator.

	£ billion
1977-78	1.4
1978-79	1.3
1979-80	1.0
1980-81	1.1
1981-82	0.8
1982-83	0.7
1983-84	0.7
1984-85	0.7
1985-86	0.7
1986-87	0.7
1987-88	0.6
1988-89	0.8
1989-90	0.7
1990-91	0.8
1991-92	0.9
1992-93	1.0
1993-94	0.8
1994-95	0.8
1995-96	0.6
1996-97	0.7
1997-98	0.9
1998-99	1.1
1999-2000	1.2
2000-21	2.1
2001-22	2.1
2002-23	3.5
2003-24	4.1
2004-25	4.7
2005-26	5.6
2006-27	5.7

Science: Higher Education

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* chemistry and *(b)* physics departments in English universities closed in each year since 1997. [133225]

Bill Rammell: Information on the closure, merger or opening of particular university departments is not collected by the Department. However, subjects like chemistry and physics are starting to become more popular and the measures we are taking to increase demand and the extra £75 million announced last year should help to sustain capacity as demand increases. Physics and chemistry are also taught as major subjects at some 50 and 70 UK institutions respectively. We have consistently made clear that if a physics or chemistry department closes at one institution, the Higher Education Funding Council for England should seek to maintain capacity elsewhere and we announced last year that the council should report to us on how provision can be maintained in this way.

Secondary Education: Urban Areas

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of extending the London Challenge to other areas of England. [132914]

Jim Knight: On 4 April 2007, I announced the extension of the London Challenge in London for at least a further three years. I also announced the expansion of a similarly focused London Challenge-type approach to two other parts of the country that face similar challenges to those which have afflicted the capital.

My decision is based on an assessment of the proven success of the London Challenge programme. Today, more than half of London's pupils get five good GCSEs. London schools have outperformed the rest of the country for three years running and improvements have been seen in every London borough. Ofsted recently reinforced this assessment in its December report "Improvements in London Schools 2000-06". The report recommended considering the model

"in other vulnerable areas where performance is a concern".

Special Educational Needs Learners

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the success rates for special educational needs learners are for complete frameworks of *(a)* work-based learning, *(b)* further education, *(c)* adult and community learning and *(d)* school sixth forms levels 1 to 3 vocational programmes in each year since 1997. [111349]

Mr. Dhanda: Data on those assessed as having a special educational need (SEN) is not captured on the FE individualised learner record (ILR) databases that underpin the success rate figures produced by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). However, learner self-assessment of whether they have a learning difficulty, disability and/or health problem is recorded

on the LSC's learner data for learners participating in work-based learning, further education and adult and community learning.

In 2004-05 the national success rate for learners in LSC-funded FE provision with a self-declared learning difficulty, disability and/or health problem was 73 per cent. compared to 74 per cent. for those without. Comparable success rates for those in work-based learning or adult and community learning have not been calculated.

The self-declared information captured on the ILR is very different from the SEN status attributed during compulsory education against a national legitimate and agreed framework, so an analysis using solely the LSC's learner data is deemed to be too inaccurate an approximation to provide a valid response to the question.

Learner data for school sixth forms is currently not collected on the LSC's ILR, so success rates can not be calculated. However, statisticians in the Department and the LSC are working to collect data which will enable the calculation of these success rates; a date for publication has not yet been agreed.

Special Educational Needs: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of children in Hartlepool *(a)* have special educational needs and *(b)* were educated in special schools in each year since 1997. [131362]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is shown in the table.

Number of pupils with special educational needs and number of pupils in special schools—position as at January each year: 1997 to 2006—Hartlepool local authority

	All schools					Special schools	
		Pupils with statements		Pupils with SEN without a statement		Total pupils	
	Total pupils	Number	Percentage[1]	Number	Percentage[1]	Number	Percentage[2]
1997	17,038	383	2.2	2,474	14.5	238	1.4
1998	17,154	414	2.4	2,898	16.9	263	1.5
1999	17,263	431	2.5	3,146	18.2	262	1.5
2000	17,250	430	2.5	3,539	20.5	235	1.4
2001[3]	16,986	—	—	—	—	215	1.3
2002[4]	16,743	439	2.6	3,301	19.7	176	1.1
2003	16,695	431	2.6	2,612	15.6	158	0.9
2004	16,441	411	2.5	2,609	15.9	147	0.9
2005	16,157	383	2.4	2,762	17.1	138	0.9
2006	15,889	362	2.3	2,826	17.8	127	0.8

[1] Number of pupils with a statement of SEN or with SEN without a statement expressed as a proportion of the total number of pupils.
[2] The number of pupils in special schools expressed as a proportion of the total number of pupils in all schools.
[3] In 2001 estimates were made at a national level because the data for SEN are known to be incomplete, therefore local authority level data are not available.
[4] From 2002 SEN data may not comparable with previous years due to underlying changes in data collection.
Source:
School Census

Teachers: Termination of Employment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many primary and secondary school teachers who have left the profession before completing five years of teaching in the last 10 years have not returned to teaching; [131266]

(2) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers have left the profession before completing five years of teaching in the last 10 years, broken down by subject. [131267]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of full and part-time qualified teachers with less than five years recorded teaching service who left maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in each year between 1995-96 and 2004-05. The number of these teachers who are recorded as not being in maintained sector service at March 2005 is also shown and the head count number of teachers in service each year. These figures include teachers who retired and are the latest information available. The information is not available broken down by subject.

Full and part-time teachers with less than five years recorded teaching service leaving service and those not returning[1] 1994-95 to 2004-05

Thousand

	Nursery and primary			Secondary		
	Headcount numbers in service[2]	Numbers left service[3]	Numbers not returned to service[4,5]	Headcount numbers in service[2]	Numbers left service[3]	Numbers not returned to service[4,5]
1994-95	216.0	3.3	2.2	212.0	3.3	2.4
1995-96	217.8	3.4	2.2	209.6	3.8	2.8
1996-97	218.3	3.3	2.2	209.8	3.5	2.5
1997-98	217.4	3.8	2.5	209.4	3.9	2.8
1998-99	219.5	4.4	2.8	212.1	4.5	3.2

Full and part-time teachers with less than five years recorded teaching service leaving service and those not returning[1] 1994-95 to 2004-05

Thousand

	Nursery and primary			*Secondary*		
	Headcount numbers in service[2]	*Numbers left service[3]*	*Numbers not returned to service[4,5]*	*Headcount numbers in service[2]*	*Numbers left service[3]*	*Numbers not returned to service[4,5]*
1999-2000	223.7	4.3	2.7	213.5	4.5	3.1
2000-01	227.7	4.3	2.7	218.1	4.8	3.3
2001-02	229.1	4.2	2.7	224.4	4.7	3.3
2002-03	227.6	5.1	3.5	227.3	5.2	3.8
2003-04[5]	219.2	4.6	3.0	226.5	5.2	3.6
2004-05[5]	220.3	3.7	3.7	230.9	4.4	4.4
2006	224.4	—	—	232.3	—	—

[1] Teachers leaving service will be counted in each year in which they left and therefore some will be counted more than once if they re-enter service and subsequently leave. An overall estimate of teachers leaving during the 10 year period is not therefore available. In addition teachers who have left service may not have done so permanently. This affects the later years in the series particularly. The increasing trend in teachers shown not returning to service does not necessarily reveal an actual increase in the proportion of teachers leaving service permanently with less than five years service.
[2] January of each year. These figures include unqualified teachers.
[3] Teachers recorded as out of maintained sector service in England at the end of the year shown.
[4] Teachers remaining out of maintained sector service in England at March 2005.
[5] Provisional.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records (teachers leaving service) and form 618g survey (teachers in service).

Teachers: Training

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to increase funding for the training of designated teachers over the next three years. [131844]

Jim Knight: "Care Matters", published in October 2006, set out a range of measures to improve the lives of children in care. Of central importance is improving their education so that we give children in care the best possible chance in life. We propose to put the role of designated teacher on a statutory footing to ensure that all schools have a member of staff responsible for planning and co-ordinating support for the education of young people in care.

The Department for Education and Skills Comprehensive Spending Review settlement gives us an overall spending envelope for 2008-11 which will enable us to deliver our key priorities for children, young people and learners. Decisions to be taken over the coming months will allow us to make more precise announcements about the allocation of resources towards the summer. A forthcoming White Paper will set out how we will take forward measures to improve the education of children in care.

Textbooks: Visually Impaired

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to *(a)* increase the proportion of (i) mathematics and science GCSE textbooks and (ii) English textbooks available in large print or Braille and *(b)* make available versions of Key Stage 4 dictionaries and atlases accessible to those with a visual impairment. [133831]

Mr. Dhanda: Part IV of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requires schools and local authorities to plan to improve access to the curriculum and written materials for disabled pupils over time. This includes all National Curriculum-taught subjects.

With regard to the availability of text books and materials in electronic and other formats for schools, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 721W, to my hon. Friend the Member for West Ham (Lyn Brown).

Truancy

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children were *(a)* stopped and *(b)* cautioned for truancy in (i) Taunton Deane, (ii) Somerset and (iii) England in each year since 1997. [133345]

Jim Knight: Figures from the twice-yearly nationally co-ordinated truancy sweeps that the Department ran until autumn 2006 show:

	Number of pupils stopped	
	Somerset	*England*
Autumn 2002	95	20,554
Spring 2003	109	14,375
Autumn 2003	69	17,718
Spring 2004	39	11,365
Autumn 2004	126	14,958
Spring 2005	70	12,808
Autumn 2005	80	12,056
Spring 2006	26	10,196
Autumn 2006	94	11,713

Number of pupils stopped without good reason for being out of school		
	Somerset	*England*
Autumn 2002	21	7,341
Spring 2003	45	5,812
Autumn 2003	0	7,189
Spring 2004	15	5,088
Autumn 2004	54	5,915
Spring 2005	10	5,639
Autumn 2005	42	4,965
Spring 2006	20	4,589
Autumn 2006	72	4,840

Local authorities run sweeps at other times in response to local intelligence but the Department does not collect statistics from these sweeps. The Department does not collect statistics for either Wales or district councils.

Vocational Training: Pilot Schemes

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many qualifications have been awarded under the employer training pilots, broken down by *(a)* sector and *(b)* level. [131985]

Phil Hope: The Employer Training Pilots ran from September 2002 to March 2006, when the pilot areas became part of the Train To Gain programme. The offer in the pilots was of subsidised training leading to a qualification in basic skills or a first Level 2 qualification for employees. The following table from the Learning and Skills Council shows achievements by learners who started on the pilot before end-March 2006 (but excludes about 1,500 those still on their courses).

Employer's industrial sector and qualification type	*Number of ETP achievements*
Health and social work	53,346
Basic Skills	8,911
NVQ Level 2	43,673
Vocationally Related Qualification at Level 2	762
Manufacturing	35,729
Basic Skills	3,938
NVQ Level 2	29,999
VRQ	1,792
Real estate, renting and business activities	25,428
Basic Skills	3,400
NVQ Level 2	20,132
VRQ	1,896
Other community, social and personal service activities	23,112
Basic Skills	2,326
NVQ Level 2	18,204
VRQ	2,582
Education	13,176
Basic Skills	4,821
NVQ Level 2	7,876
VRQ	479
Construction	12,655
Basic Skills	397
NVQ Level 2	12,119
VRQ	139
Wholesale and retail trade and repair	10,671
Basic Skills	1,210
NVQ Level 2	8,507
VRQ	954
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	9,226
Basic Skills	4,016
NVQ Level 2	5,030
VRQ	180
Transport, storage and communication	8,664
Basic Skills	1,581
NVQ Level 2	6,495
VRQ	588
Hotels and restaurants	6,685
Basic Skills	829
NVQ Level 2	4,836
VRQ	1,020
Financial intermediation	1,460
Basic Skills	352
NVQ Level 2	913
VRQ	195
Extra territorial organisations and bodies	1,150
Basic Skills	456
NVQ Level 2	444
VRQ	250
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	623
Basic Skills	47
NVQ Level 2	527
VRQ	49
Electricity, gas and water supply	387
Basic Skills	24
NVQ Level 2	354
VRQ	9
Mining and quarrying	372
Basic Skills	5
NVQ Level 2	338
VRQ	29
Private households with employed persons	59
Basic Skills	4
NVQ Level 2	55
Fishing	45
NVQ Level 2	15
VRQ	30
Grand total:	202,788

TREASURY

Competition Law

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the amount of debt outstanding on fines imposed by the European Commission for infringements of competition rules. [133539]

John Healey: Information concerning the amount of debt outstanding on fines imposed by the European Commission for infringements of competition rules is not held by HM Treasury.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what total sum of fines was imposed upon each EU member state in 2006 for infringements of competition rules; and how much has been written off. [133540]

John Healey: The infringements of competition rules that can result in fines pertain to companies and not member states.

Customs Officers: Manpower

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officers are employed at UK ports; and how many are expected to be employed at UK ports in each of the next five years. [133391]

John Healey: Staff engaged on frontline operational activity at the frontier operate in a mobile, flexible and inteiligence-led manner. They are not, in the main, allocated to particular ports and their duties may involve them working at ports, airports or inland locations.

Some 4500 staff from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs' Detection directorate are employed on frontline operational duties at ports and airports. Other HMRC staff also attend ports and airports as part of their official duties.

HMRC plans to maintain the number of frontline staff employed at UK borders in 2007-08 but no firm figures are yet available for this year or beyond.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 737W, on departmental staff, if he will redact the personal information and place redacted copies of the staff magazine in the Library. [123618]

John Healey: I have nothing further to add to my answer of 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 737W.

Departments: Art Works

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what pieces of artwork valued at over £1,000 have been *(a)* purchased and *(b)* transferred to his Department's ownership since July 2006; and what the (i) name and (ii) value is of each. [133441]

John Healey: There have been no pieces of artwork purchased by, or transferred to, HM Treasury since July 2006.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what official *(a)* lunches, *(b)* dinners and *(c)* receptions he hosted in each of the last six months; and what the (i) location, (ii) total cost and (iii) purpose was of each event. [133325]

John Healey: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

EC Budget

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the amount of pre-financing made, as project advances, under the latest European Union budget that is due for recovery; what the UK's share is of that funding; and what percentage was reclaimed on such funding from last year's budget. [133552]

Ed Balls: HM Treasury does not make estimates for pre-financing. The amounts of pre-financing are recorded in the annual accounts of the European Communities, which are then reported on by the European Court of Auditors.

The latest figures available for pre-financing and recovery orders are for the 2005 financial year and may be found in the 'Final Annual Accounts of the European Communities 2005' at

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/publications/fin_manag_account/fin_annual_acc_2005_en.pdf

EC Budget: Rebate

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the agreed rebate to be returned to the EU has been paid; and what the time scale is for future payments. [133447]

Ed Balls: None. As agreed at the December 2005 European Council, expenditure on economic development in the new member states will gradually be disapplied from the United Kingdom abatement calculation, from 2009. The following formula will be used for this purpose:

	Percentage
2009	20
2010	70
2011[1]	100

[1] Onwards.

EC Grants and Loans: Taxation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether campaigning organisations and think tanks that receive EU funding pay tax on such funding. [133545]

John Healey: There are no special tax rules which apply to campaigning organisations and think tanks. Where a grant, including a grant from the EU, is given to a non-trading body, then generally no tax liability will arise.

Energy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what decisions on energy were made by the G7 Finance Ministers at their meeting in Washington DC on 13 April; and if he will *(a)* place in the Library

and *(b)* post on his Department's website the final declaration of the G7 Ministers. [133384]

John Healey: The outcomes of the G7 discussions in Washington on energy and climate change matters are recorded in the official statement. The convention is for this to be published on the website of the finance ministry chairing the meeting, in this case the United States Treasury. This can be found at http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp350.htm. The full text of the statement is attached for information; energy is covered in the third to last paragraph:

"In order to ensure energy security and to address climate change, we consider energy efficiency and the promotion of energy diversification to be important issues for both developed and developing economies. Diversification can include advanced energy technologies such as renewable, nuclear, and clean coal. We agree that market based policy measures should be effectively designed to meet specific conditions in each country."

Gift Aid

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how much was donated to British charities through Gift Aid between inception and 1999; how much of the Gift Aid Scheme has been donated *(a)* since 2000 and *(b)* since inception; and if he will make a statement. [134083]

Ed Balls: Information on donations using Gift Aid for each year from inception in 1990-91 up to 2005-06 is published on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/table10-3.xls

This table will be updated in June 2007.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what percentage employers' national insurance contributions form of the UK labour cost. [133588]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 April 21007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent parliamentary question asking the percentage that employers' national insurance contributions form of the UK labour cost. (133588)

Estimates of the various components of labour costs are provided by the ONS in its labour costs survey (LCS). LCS estimates are compiled every four years based on information from the annual survey of hours and earnings, labour force survey, annual business inquiry and other data sources. The most recent results were compiled for 2004 and cover sectors C-O of the UK standard industrial classification of economic activities 2003 and businesses with 10 or more employees. The 2004 LCS shows that the proportion of UK labour costs attributable to employers' national insurance contributions is 6.2 per cent.

Oral Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many questions tabled by right hon. and hon. Members to his Department for oral answer have been transferred to other Departments since May 2005. [133795]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers answer all questions concerning matters for which we are responsible. Only questions which it would be more appropriate for other Ministers to answer are transferred to other Departments.

Since May 2005, six of the 400 questions tabled to the Treasury for oral answer have been transferred to other Departments.

Planning Gain Supplement

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the contracts which have been awarded for the provision of information technology in preparation for the introduction of the Planning Gain Supplement. [133744]

John Healey: No contracts have been awarded for the provision of information technology in preparation for the introduction of the Planning Gain Supplement.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on preparations for the introduction of the Planning Gain Supplement. [133745]

John Healey: The Treasury, HM Revenue and Customs, and the Department for Communities and Local Government have undertaken preliminary work to develop and explore the feasibility of a Planning Gain Supplement since 2004. This has included the publication of one consultation document alongside the 2005 pre-Budget report and three consultation documents alongside the 2006 pre-Budget report. The costs incurred have been borne by the respective Departments as part of the normal policy development process.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what commission and consultancy fees have been paid to private finance initiative advisers since 1997. [133557]

John Healey: The Treasury does not collate this information centrally.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals enabling the National Audit Office to examine the books of private finance initiative providers. [133587]

John Healey: In 2006 the Government introduced provisions giving the National Audit Office the right to examine all such documentation as it may reasonably require from the companies involved in PFI contracts as set out in paragraphs 26.7.1 and 26.9.3 of the Standardisation of PFI Contacts (Version 4).

Public Sector: Land

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to whether social and community benefits should carry equal weight in the sale of public sector land as achieving the best price. [133690]

John Healey: In general, the Government are always interested in securing the greatest value for money for the taxpayer. Government Accounting's General Principles (24.2.1) exhorts:

> "Once surplus assets have been identified, they should be disposed of as quickly as possible subject to value for money considerations."

Value for money bears on nearly all aspects of deployment of public resources: procurement, asset management, disposals, administrative systems and financing arrangements such as leases and PFI transactions. It means finding solutions which achieve the best mix of quality and effectiveness for the least outlay.

However, all aspects of a transaction or proposed transaction, financial or otherwise, should be first taken fully into account, comprising any potential auxiliary or tangential benefit, including possible social and community benefits that may be attendant upon the issue, before the terms of a disposal, or other physical conveyance, are concluded.

The Surplus Public Sector Land Taskforce was set up as part of the Government's response to the Barker Review of Housing Supply to examine cost-effective options for accelerating the release of public sector land in order to increase housing supply.

Specifically with regard to local authority disposals, the Government's policy is that local authorities and other public bodies should dispose of surplus land wherever possible. Generally it is expected that land should be sold for the best consideration reasonably obtainable. But it is recognised that there are circumstances in which a local authority may consider it appropriate to dispose of land at an undervalue.

The General Disposal Consent issued in August 2003 in ODPM Circular 06/2003 enables local authorities to make land disposals which will contribute to the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of an area at less than best consideration.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targets are in place to ensure that members of the public receive a timely response to correspondence to Inland Revenue offices. [133601]

John Healey: HMRC aims to deal with 80 per cent. of general correspondence within 15 working days of receipt and 95 per cent. within 40 working days.

Revenue and Customs: Glasgow

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make a statement on the backlog at the Inland Revenue office in Glasgow; [133599]

(2) whether people applying to the Inland Revenue office in Glasgow to reclaim a tax overpayment are compensated for lost interest due to the backlog; and if he will make a statement. [133600]

John Healey: Centre 1, HMRC's main processing office in the Glasgow area, receives large volumes of customer correspondence so there is inevitably work in progress at any time. There are no significant backlogs of work at Centre 1.

There are statutory provisions for making a repayment "supplement" in addition to a tax repayment in certain circumstances. HMRC's approach to compensation and redress is set out in its Code of Practice COP1 "Putting Things Right".

Revenue and Customs: Serious Organised Crime Agency

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what studies have been made of the feasibility of transferring HM Revenue and Customs' criminal investigative function to the Serious Organised Crime Agency. [133751]

John Healey: There have been no studies undertaken into the feasibility of transferring HM Revenue and Customs' criminal investigative function to the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Smuggling

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what resources HM Revenue and Customs plans to allocate for making seizures of prohibited and restricted items at UK ports in each of the next five years. [133392]

John Healey: Information is not available in the format requested as HM Revenue and Customs does not specifically allocate resources to making seizures of prohibited and restricted goods. HMRC resources allocated to anti-smuggling work are multi-functional and are deployed flexibly against priorities that are subject to change at any time.

Tax Allowances

Harry Cohen: To ask Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment has been made of the appropriateness of tax breaks for *(a)* operations based on debt and *(b)* self-employment and sub-contracting which place those arrangements at an advantage over those for direct employment; and if he will make a statement. [133282]

Ed Balls: The Government monitor all aspects of the tax system on an ongoing basis and policy changes were announced in the recent Budget. In addition, on 8 March I announced a review of the current tax deductibility rules applying to the use of shareholder debt where it replaces the equity element in highly leveraged deals in the light of market developments. The review aims to ensure that existing rules are working as intended, consistent with the Government's focus on ensuring that commercial decisions are taken on a level playing field, to maximise efficient working of the investment chain.

Taxation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what his Department's most recent estimate is of the tax gap; and how the Treasury model is used to estimate the amounts. [133560]

Ed Balls: There are no reliable estimates of the total tax gap. However, estimates of revenue losses in indirect taxes are available and are reported in 'Measuring Indirect Tax Losses - 2006', which is published alongside the PBR and can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Taxation: Electric Vehicles

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax is paid on the purchase of a new *(a)* Toyota Prius and *(b)* Honda Accord hybrid car. [132819]

John Healey: *[pursuant to the reply, 25 April 2007, Official Report, c.1163W]:* The second paragraph of my answer stated that

"These vehicles are therefore subject to band B CO_2 emissions graduated Vehicle Excise Duty. In Budget 2007 the Chancellor built on Budget 2006 changes by further reducing this rate to £35 and freezing it until 2010-11."

My answer should have said

"These vehicles are therefore subject to the Alternative Fuel Car band B CO_2 emissions graduated Vehicle Excise Duty rate. In Budget 2007 the Chancellor built on Budget 2006 changes by further reducing this rate from £30 to £15 and freezing it until 2010-11."

I very much regret this inadvertent error.

Taxation: Personal Savings

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether his Department has any proposals for strengthening the EU savings tax directive. [133559]

Ed Balls: We have no proposals at present. A review will take place, in accordance with the directive, in 2008.

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was received in fines for the late submission of self-assessment tax forms in each of the last nine years. [133327]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to a similar question from the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) on 10 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 3138W.

Penalties paid for the year to end of October 2005 was £39.40 million.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were fined for late submission of self-assessment tax forms in each of the last nine years. [133328]

Ed Balls: The total numbers of people to whom HM Revenue and Customs issued Late Filing Penalties in each of the last four years are as detailed in the following table. This information is not available prior to 2003-04.

	Number
2006-07	1,582,446
2005-06	1,468,476
2004-05	1,482,044
2003-04	1,424,416

A self assessment taxpayer may receive more than one penalty in each year. The table shows the total number of penalty notices issued less the number of penalties cancelled in each year.

Unemployment

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of youth unemployment was in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by region; what the unemployment rate was for all age groups in each region in each year; and if he will make a statement. [133458]

John Healey *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 April 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what has been the rate of youth unemployment in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down into regions and how these figures compare with the unemployment rate for all age groups. (133458)

For the purpose of this Parliamentary Question, we have taken 'youth' to mean people aged 16-24 years. Estimates of unemployment rates for people aged 16 to 24 by region are not available. Table 1, attached, gives unemployment rates for people aged 16 to 24 for the United Kingdom, as well as unemployment rates for people 16 and over, broken down by region.

This information is for the 3 months ending December each year from 1997 to 2006 (estimates for 1998 and 2000 are not available). The data are not seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: unemployment rates[1] by age and region of residence United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

thousand

	16 to 24						
Three months ending December each year	*United Kingdom*	*United Kingdom*	*North east*	*North west*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*
1997	12.7	6.3	8.0	6.7	6.8	5.0	6.1

Table 1: unemployment rates[1] by age and region of residence United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

thousand

16 to 24

Three months ending December each year	*United Kingdom*	*United Kingdom*	*North east*	*North west*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*
1998	13.1	6.0	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
1999	11.9	5.6	7.8	5.8	5.8	5.2	6.5
2000	11.8	5.1	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
2001	11.9	5.0	6.6	5.1	4.9	4.4	5.4
2002	11.8	5.0	6.9	4.7	4.8	4.6	5.5
2003	11.4	4.8	6.1	4.5	4.8	4.2	5.6
2004	12.1	4.6	6.3	4.5	4.5	4.0	4.6
2005	13.6	5.0	6.4	4.7	5.4	4.4	5.2
2006	13.8	5.4	6.4	5.2	6.0	5.5	6.5

thousand

16 and over

Three months ending December each year	*East*	*London*	*South east*	*South west*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*
1997	5.2	9.2	4.3	5.0	6.8	6.9	8.7
1998	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
1999	4.1	7.0	3.9	4.0	7.1	6.7	6.6
2000	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]
2001	3.8	7.3	3.3	3.5	5.9	6.4	5.8
2002	3.9	6.6	3.9	3.9	5.1	5.9	5.5
2003	3.3	7.0	3.7	3.0	4.9	5.5	6.2
2004	3.6	7.2	3.4	3.3	4.3	5.4	4.6
2005	4.4	7.4	4.1	4.0	5.0	4.9	4.5
2006	4.3	7.9	4.2	3.8	5.2	4.9	4.2

[1] Total unemployed as a percentage of all economically active persons in the relevant age group.
[2] Data not available

Source:
ONS labour Force Survey (LFS)

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many 18 to 24-year-olds were *(a)* employed and *(b)* unemployed in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [133459]

John Healey *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 April 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many 18 to 24 year olds have been (a) employed and (b) unemployed, in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down into regions. (133459)

Table 1 gives the numbers of people aged 18 to 24 in employment, broken down by region of residence.

Table 2 gives numbers of unemployed people aged 18 to 24 in the United Kingdom. Comparable estimates for each region are not available.

The tables provided are for the 3 months ending December each year from 1997 to 2006 (estimates for 1998 and 2000 are not available). The data are not seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: People aged 18 to 24 in employment by region of residence [1] ited Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

Three months ending December each year	*United Kingdom*	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*
1997	3,211	131	358	268	240	279
1998	3,185	—	—	—	—	—
1999	3,269	132	360	286	222	292
2000	3,243	—	—	—	—	—
2001	3,346	139	370	284	246	302
2002	3,406	138	406	291	237	316
2003	3,467	148	414	305	259	306

Table 1: People aged 18 to 24 in employment by region of residence United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

Three months ending December each year	United Kingdom	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humberside	East Midlands	West Midlands
2004	3,520	161	430	311	262	316
2005	3,505	162	437	312	244	308
2006	3,610	171	425	331	262	308

Thousand

	East	London	South East	South West	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
1997	294	405	427	255	142	301	106
1998	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1999	292	441	454	264	147	277	100
2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2001	302	443	457	269	144	292	99
2002	297	412	470	270	160	308	100
2003	321	397	456	291	169	301	103
2004	320	377	470	279	174	318	102
2005	311	390	449	273	173	330	112
2006	317	431	477	281	182	318	108

'—'Data not available

Source:
ONS labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 2: Unemployed people aged 18 to 24—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Three months ending December each year	Thousand
1997	419
1998	421
1999	374
2000	369
2001	391
2002	373
2003	364
2004	410
2005	459
2006	488

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Valuation Office: Contracts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provisions on confidentiality there are in the contract between Capgemini and Cole Layer Trumble (CLT) to provide a server version of OASIS and workflow software for the Valuation Office Agency. [130578]

Mr. Timms: The normal ASPIRE terms and conditions, which prohibit CLT from publicising details of the agreement and restrict the passing on of any confidential information to third parties, are contained in this contract.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1593W, on welfare tax credits, what guidance has been given to those administering tax credits claims affected by the part of the manual referring to undisclosed partners. [133348]

Mr. Timms: Chapter 15 of the Claimant Compliance Manual provides guidance on how to deal with a case where HMRC discovers that a claimant has not disclosed that they have a partner. The Claimant Compliance Manual is available on HMRC's website at www.hmrc.gov.uk. Compliance staff refer to that guidance where a case meets the criteria.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 27 April 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departments: Tribal Group

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what contracts her Department awarded to *(a)* Geronimo Communications Ltd. and *(b)* its parent company Tribal Group plc. in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of each contract. [133743]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has not awarded any contracts to Geronimo Communications Ltd. in the last three years. A number of contracts have been awarded to Tribal Group though the detail of the spend for each contract could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However the total spend with Tribal Group over the last three years is as follows:

	£
2004-05	378,619
2005-06	622,093
2006-07	587,410

Housing: Construction

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on red ash testing; and what guidance she has issued on red ash testing and floor replacement. [131984]

Angela E. Smith: Over a number of years the Department has received representation from a number of homeowners who have properties constructed using red ash. In the past the Communities and Local Government has not issued technical guidance specific to this issue but has referred individuals to related documents published by the Building Research Establishment. Work on a new guidance document 'Guidance for assessing sulphate bearing hardcore under domestic buildings' will be completed shortly and this guidance will then be made available.

Local Government

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* events, *(b)* engagements and *(c)* meetings (i) she, (ii) other Ministers in her Department and (iii) staff in her Department attended with (A) councillors and (B) officials of authorities bidding for unitary status between 1 February and 16 April 2007. [133142]

Mr. Woolas: My colleagues and I and officials frequently meet members and officers of councils from across the country which may include councils that either have made unitary proposals or would be affected by such proposals.

Members: Correspondence

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to the letter of 21 March 2007 from the hon. Member for Maidstone and The Weald. [133892]

Ruth Kelly: I apologise for the delay in responding to the right hon. Member's letter.

I will respond to the letter shortly.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Minister of State expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 23 February 2007, on the Sustainable Communities Bill. [134604]

Mr. Woolas: I responded to the hon. Member's letter on 19 March 2007. I have arranged for a copy of that letter to be resent.

Regional Planning and Development: Gloucestershire

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what amendments affecting Gloucestershire were made to the South West Regional Spatial Strategy following the consultation in 2006; and whether such amendments were recommended by *(a)* Assembly officers, *(b)* the Government Office of the South West, *(c)* the South West Regional Development Agency, *(d)* her Department, *(e)* local authorities, *(f)* commercial interests, *(g)* community representatives and *(h)* members of the public. [134462]

Meg Munn: No amendments have been made to the draft South West Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) following the consultation in 2006 when it was submitted to the Secretary of State for her consideration. The draft RSS is at an Examination-in-Public now and so any proposed changes will be considered in the light of this.

Unitary Councils

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department met representatives from (i) any council that has bid for unitary status and (ii) any councils affected by such bids between October 2006 and 27 March 2007. [131048]

Angela E. Smith: My colleagues and I frequently meet members of councils from across the country which may include councils that either have made unitary proposals or would be affected by such proposals.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will publish an assessment of the 26 proposals for future unitary structures which have been submitted to her Department by local authorities against the criteria in her October 2006 invitation. [132583]

Mr. Woolas: The reasons for my right hon. Friend's decisions are set out in the decision letters of 27 March 2007. These can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1509144

Copies of the letters have been placed in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage: Iraq

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funds have been allocated by her Department to protect sites of cultural heritage in Iraq since 2003; and if she will make a statement. [133853]

Tessa Jowell: My Department's response to the heritage crisis in Iraq has been via the bodies which it funds, most notably the British Museum. The DCMS has and will continue to support the museum's work in this area.

The British Museum has:

provided expertise and training on conservation and site management;

sent two archaeologists to Iraq who were instrumental in co-ordinating the quick supply of a wide range of desperately needed materials and equipment to the Baghdad Museum; and

arranged and managed (with additional funding of £15,000 from the DCMS) a project that allowed three interns coming from the Iraqi Ministry of Culture to learn the skills necessary for the future management of the Babylon archaeological site.

In addition to the work of the British Museum, the British Library has also provided expertise and support. It was able to work with the Iraq National Library and Archive, supplying surrogate material to replace that which was lost during the conflict.

Gambling Act 2005

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the measures her Department has put in place to address in the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 the project management weaknesses highlighted in paragraphs 51 to 54 of the Better Regulation Commission's Report on the Implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [132800]

Tessa Jowell: In response to the advice set out at paragraphs 51 to 54 of the Better Regulation Commissioner's Report on the Implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, the Department has put in place the following measures:

robust programme management arrangements that draw on lessons learned from implementing the Licensing Act 2003;

a ministerial commitment, which has been honoured, to local authorities that there would be a period of three months between laying of relevant secondary legislation and the assumption of their new duties;

provision for a system of "continuation rights" designed to give those businesses that take advantage of the opportunity reassurance about their ability to operate legally in the event that applications are not processed in time for the coming into force of the new regime.

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department has used a cross-sector pilot group to test the application requirements and forms for the licences required by the Gambling Act 2005 as recommended by the Better Regulation Commissioner's Report on the Implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [132801]

Tessa Jowell: In light of the Better Regulation Commission's recommendations, the Department and the Gambling Commission piloted all application and other forms with industry representatives and licensing authorities. The original proposals were modified significantly as a result of the comments received. The Department and the Gambling Commission held consultative meetings on other aspects of the licensing regime to ensure that we drew on existing best practice wherever possible as well as lessons learned from implementing the Licensing Act 2003.

Licensing Act 2003

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department has taken to implement the recommendations of the Better Regulation Commission's report on the Implementation of the Licensing Act 2003; and if she will make a statement. [132799]

Tessa Jowell: Following a meeting in October, the Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism agreed with the chairman of the Better Regulation Commission measures to progress the issues raised in the commission's report. These measures were incorporated into the Department's Better Regulation Simplification Plan which was published in December 2006. Recommendations such as the discretion to correct minor errors on application forms and clarifying the flexibility on the scale to be used in plans are being addressed in the revision of statutory Guidance to licensing authorities. We expect to publish revised Guidance in the early summer.

We have also been engaging in pre-consultation with key stakeholders prior to bringing forward proposals later this year for public consultations on minor variations of licences and the removal of the designated premises supervisor requirement for village halls.

Olympic Games

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's latest estimate is of expenditure on the Olympic Games in each year from 2006-07 to 2012-13; and how much money has been spent in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [109851]

Tessa Jowell: Expenditure by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) in 2006-07 is forecast to be £237 million. The ODA's budget for 2007-08 is £538 million.

Spending by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) in 2006-07 is forecast to be £25 million and the budget for 2007-08 is £57 million. This will be funded from commercial finance. LOCOG's operational lifetime budget is estimated to be circa £2 billion which is financed from private sources.

During the bid period 2003-05 the bid company London 2012 Ltd. spent £28 million. In addition to this the London Development Agency and DCMS contributed, in total, a further £10 million supporting the bid and developing the master plan for the Lower Lea Valley. This cost was outside the Public Sector Funding Package and was partly met by private funding.

In 2005-06 the Interim ODA spent £41 million and the LOCOG spent around £9 million.

On 15 March 2007 I announced an overall budget for the ODA of up to £5.3 billion for expenditure, excluding tax. Work is in progress, in conjunction with the ODA, to establish the budget profiles for 2008-09 and beyond.

DEFENCE

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the total number of soldiers who have served in Iraq since the commencement of the war in Iraq have been from the ranks of the Territorial Army. [131640]

Mr. Ingram: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, it is possible to estimate that the proportion has fluctuated between approximately 6 per cent. currently to a high of 18 per cent. in 2003. These figures count full-time reserve service personnel within Territorial Army numbers.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what instructions are issued to staff in her Department on shutting down computers at night; and what other procedures are in place to ensure computers are shut down. [134864]

Edward Miliband: All staff, contractors and security guards are instructed to switch off PCs and monitors when not in use. This is part of a wider and continuing sustainable development programme, which also includes night time energy audits of buildings.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by her Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134055]

Hilary Armstrong: All paper used for photocopying is 100 per cent. recycled with a post-consumer waste content of 100 per cent. The vast majority of paper supplied for printed publications is 100 per cent. recycled with a post-consumer waste content of 75 per cent.

Orders and Regulations

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many regulations were repealed in each year since 1997. [133218]

Hilary Armstrong: Regulations have been repealed in a variety of ways including through primary legislation and orders under the Regulatory Reform Act 2001 and its predecessor the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994.

Information on the total number of regulations repealed since 1997 in not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

35 Regulatory Reform Orders were passed under the Regulatory Reform Act 2001 simplifying a range of legislation. For example the Regulatory Safety (Fire Safety) Order 2005 replaced over 50 pieces of legislation with one new set of rules. The Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 repealed the Regulatory Reform Act. Several Legislative Reform Orders are currently at an early stage of development and will also include the repeal of regulations.

Sports: Young People

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1753W, on the Youth Sport Trust, what part the Chairman of v played in the Chancellor's announcement on 7 February of the Youth Trust Programme. [133657]

Edward Miliband: The chair of v, Ron Aldridge, played no role in the Chancellor's announcement.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

City Academies: Pupil Exclusions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent exclusions there were from academies in the last two years for which data is available; and for what reasons pupils were excluded. [128508]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the following table.

Academies: Number and percentage of permanent exclusions[1] 2003/04 and 2004/05—England

	2003/04	2004/05
Number of permanent exclusions	90	100
Percentage of school population[2]	0.83	0.67

[1] The number of exclusions from academies are as reported by schools and are unconfirmed.
[2] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the school population.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Data on fixed period exclusions and the reason for exclusion relating to the 2003/04 and 2004/05 school years have been derived from Termly Exclusions Survey returns. The scope of this survey did not extend to academies.

The Termly Exclusions Survey has now discontinued and the School Census has started to collect information on fixed period exclusions and reasons for exclusion in addition to the information on permanent exclusions it previously collected. First findings relating to the 2005/06 school year are expected to be available in June 2007.

Extracurricular Activities: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many places were available in out-of-school clubs for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age children in each London local authority in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. [128656]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested about child care places broken down by primary and secondary school age children is not collected. The available information on the number of registered child care places for children under eight is shown in the table.

The latest figures on registered child care provider and places are available on the following website:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/

Number[1] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age in out of school day care—position at 31 March each year

London boroughs	1997[2]	2006[3]
Inner London		
City of London	70	200
Camden	n/a	1,700
Hackney	1,110	2,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	n/a	1,000
Haringey	200	1,700
Islington	1,100	1,300
Kensington and Chelsea	700	1,500
Lambeth	n/a	1,900
Lewisham	1,000	2,200
Newham	200	1,900
Southwark	2,100	4,200
Tower Hamlets	n/a	1,400
Wandsworth	1,000	3,600
Westminster	700	1,100
Outer London		
Barking and Dagenham	200	700
Barnet	300	3,100
Bexley	200	800
Brent	300	1,300
Bromley	300	2,400
Croydon	700	3,700
Ealing	500	2,100
Enfield	300	1,800
Greenwich	200	2,300
Harrow	200	1,400
Havering	300	1,100
Hillingdon	100	1,100
Hounslow	600	1,400
Kingston upon Thames	300	1,300
Merton	300	2,200
Redbridge	200	1,300
Richmond upon Thames	400	1,800
Sutton	100	1,200
Waltham Forest	n/a	2,000

n/a = not available.
[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 places.
[2] Data source: Children's Day Care Facilities Survey.
[3] Data source: Ofsted.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many students achieved five GCSEs at grade C or above including English, mathematics and science in each year since 1997; [127840]

(2) how many students achieved five GCSEs at grade C or above including English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language in each year since 1997. [127841]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the requested information for 15-year-old[1] pupils since 1997.

	5+A*-C at GCSE[2] including English, mathematics and science GCSEs		5+A*-C at GCSE[2] including English, mathematics, science and a MFL GCSEs	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1996	195,181	35.0	151,544	27.2
1997	194,708	35.3	150,755	27.3
1998	197,179	36.1	158,048	28.9
1999	207,272	33.9	169,180	27.7
2000	214,181	35.3	172,772	28.5
2001	226,879	36.5	183,298	29.5
2002	234,205	37.6	183,583	29.4
2003	239,641	38.9	177,553	28.8
2004	251,139	38.7	182,862	28.2
2005	257,440	40.4	178,809	28.1
2006	263,525	40.6	167,114	25.8

[1] Aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2] Figures for 2004 onwards include GCSEs and equivalents.

Grandparents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects to answer question 133014, on grandparents, tabled by the hon. Member for Birkenhead on 17 April. [134500]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply given on 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1021W.

Local Education Authorities: Private Finance Initiative

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which local education authorities have undertaken a review of their school private finance initiative contracts in the last three years; and how many reviews resulted in those contracts being terminated. [134464]

Jim Knight: Private finance initiative (PFI) contracts are made between local authorities and the private sector partner, following a due procurement procedure which includes consideration of design and value for money. The Department is not a partner to the contracts and is not included in reviews. We are aware of only one schools PFI contract which has been terminated, which was a single school contract for the Frances Bardsley School for Girls in Romford.

Primary Education: Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much money he expects to make available to East Sussex county council between now and 2010 to spend on capital projects relating to rural primary schools; and how much of that funding will be allocated specifically for the renovation of existing buildings. [134497]

Jim Knight: Planned school capital allocations to East Sussex county council in 2007-08 and to schools in its area amount to £17,526,000. Allocations to local authorities for the financial years 2008-10 will be notified later this year. In addition, for 2007-08, East Sussex has taken advantage of repayable advances of £2,755,000 for maintained schools and £380,000 for voluntary-aided schools.

A long-term primary school programme, worth £500 million in 2009-10, will be rolled out with the aim of improving the condition of primary schools throughout the country. Details of this are being worked on at the present time.

The Department relies on local authorities to prioritise funding between schools and does not allocate funding specifically for rural schools or for renovation.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* Hartlepool, *(b)* Tees Valley sub-region, *(c)* the North East region and *(d)* England and Wales were permanently excluded from (i) primary schools and (ii) secondary schools in each of the last 10 years. [130890]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the tables.

For information on Wales, I refer the hon. Member to the Welsh Assembly.

Maintained primary schools[1]: number and percentage of permanent exclusions by local education authority area, 1997/98 to 2004/05

		1997/98		1998/99		1999/2000		2000/01[2]	
		Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
	England[4]	1,540	0.03	1,370	0.03	1,230	0.03	1,440	0.03
	North East[4]	60	0.02	70	0.03	50	0.02	70	0.03
	Tees Valley[4]	20	0.02	10	0.02	10	0.01	10	0.02
841	Darlington	3	0.03	0	0.00	*	*	5	0.05
805	Hartlepool	3	0.03	*	*	0	0.00	3	0.03
806	Middlesbrough	4	0.02	*	*	0	0.00	*	*
807	Redcar and Cleveland	*	*	3	0.02	*	*	3	0.02
808	Stockton-on-Tees	4	0.02	6	0.03	3	0.02	0	0.00

		2001/02[2]		2002/03[2]		2003/04[2]		2004/05[2]	
		Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
	England[4]	1,450	0.03	1,300	0.03	1,270	0.03	1,090	0.03
	North East[4]	60	0.03	70	0.03	60	0.03	50	0.02
	Tees Valley[4]	10	0.02	20	0.02	20	0.03	10	0.02
841	Darlington	*	*	0	0.00	3	0.03	*	*

		2001/02[2]		2002/03[2]		2003/04[2]		2004/05[2]	
		Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
805	Hartlepool	*	*	7	0.07	7	0.07	*	*
806	Middlesbrough	8	0.05	4	0.03	8	0.06	7	0.05
807	Redcar and Cleveland	*	*	4	0.03	3	0.02	*	*
808	Stockton-on-Tees	0	0.00	0	0.00	*	*	*	*

Maintained secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of permanent exclusions by local education authority area, 1997/98 to 2004/05

		1997/98		1998/99		1999/2000		2000/01[2]	
		Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
	England[4]	10,190	0.33	8,640	0.28	6,710	0.21	7,310	0.23
	North East[4]	590	0.33	470	0.26	410	0.23	390	0.22
	Tees Valley[4]	150	0.34	90	0.21	100	0.22	80	0.18
841	Darlington	26	0.45	26	0.45	25	0.42	18	0.30
805	Hartlepool	31	0.49	15	0.23	15	0.23	19	0.28
806	Middlesbrough	19	0.22	13	0.15	*	*	4	0.05
807	Redcar and Cleveland	33	0.32	23	0.22	36	0.35	26	0.25
808	Stockton-on-Tees	37	0.30	15	0.12	22	0.17	15	0.12

		2001/02[2]		2002/03[2]		2003/04[2]		2004/05[2]	
		Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
	England[4]	7,740	0.24	7,690	0.23	390	0.25	8,070	0.24
	North East[4]	410	0.23	420	0.23	390	0.22	410	0.23
	Tees Valley[4]	90	0.21	100	0.22	110	0.26	100	0.25
841	Darlington	6	0.10	9	0.14	19	0.30	32	0.51
805	Hartlepool	30	0.45	33	0.49	36	0.54	19	0.29
806	Middlesbrough	3	0.04	5	0.07	10	0.17	10	0.18
807	Redcar and Cleveland	31	0.30	27	0.26	30	0.29	23	0.23
808	Stockton-on-Tees	23	0.18	22	0.17	15	0.12	20	0.16

* = 1 or 2 exclusions, or a rate based on 1 or 2 exclusions

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Figures are as confirmed by local authorities via the data checking exercise.

[3] The number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils, excluding dually registered pupils.

[4] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census.

Pupil Exclusions: Drugs

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many secondary pupils were excluded from school because of drugs misuse in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [128450]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the table.

Only two years of data relating to the reason for exclusion are currently available. The first year for which information on the reason for exclusion is available relates to the 2003/04 academic year. Exclusions data for 2004/05 academic year were published in June 2006. Information on exclusions during the 2005/06 academic year is expected to be available in June 2007.

There are 12 categories describing the various reasons for exclusion, one of which relates to involvement with drugs and alcohol.

DfES guidance states that a head teacher can exclude a pupil permanently for supplying an illegal drug and that the Secretary of State would not normally expect the governing body or an appeal panel to reinstate such

a pupil. Illegal drugs have no place in schools and harm children's learning, health and behaviour. We have made clear that we support head teachers and governing bodies together with local partners including the police in their efforts to tackle illegal drugs in schools.

Maintained secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of drug and alcohol related exclusions 2003/04 and 2004/05—England

	Maintained secondary schools							
	2003/04				2004/05			
	Number of permanent exclusions[2]	Percentage of all permanent exclusions[2, 3]	Number of fixed period exclusions	Percentage of all fixed period exclusions[3]	Number of permanent exclusions[2]	Percentage of all permanent exclusions[2, 3]	Number of fixed period exclusions	Percentage of all fixed period exclusions[3]
Drug and alcohol related	600	7	11,720	4	470	6	10,610	3

* = Less than 5 exclusions or a rate based on less than 5 exclusions.
[1] Includes middle schools.
[2] The distribution of exclusions by reason has been derived from the Termly Exclusions Survey and applied to the number of permanent exclusions as confirmed by local authorities as part of the School Census data checking exercise.
[3] The number of exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of exclusions.
Note:
Numbers of exclusions have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
Source: Termly Exclusions Survey.

Pupil Exclusions: Offensive Weapons

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were excluded *(a)* temporarily and *(b)* permanently for bringing an offensive weapon to school in each year between 1997 and 2006. [122381]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not available.

Only two years of data relating to the reason for exclusion are currently available. The first year for which information on the reason for exclusion is available relates to the 2003/04 academic year. Exclusions data for 2004/05 academic year were published in June 2006.

Tables showing the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions by the reason for exclusion in 2003/04 and 2004/05 have been placed in the Library. There is not a specific category relating to offensive weapons.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many assaults on *(a)* teacher staff and *(b)* non-teaching staff were perpetrated by pupils in the (i) primary sector and (ii) secondary sector in the Peterborough local education authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [129419]

Jim Knight: The number of assaults on staff in schools is not collected centrally.

From the academic year 2003/04, information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. These reasons include 'physical assault against an adult'.

The following table provides the number of fixed period and permanent exclusions from maintained primary and secondary schools in Peterborough local authority for assault against an adult.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against an adult 2003/04 and 2004/05—Peterborough local authority area

	Exclusions for physical assault against an adult							
	Maintained primary schools				Maintained secondary schools			
	Permanent exclusions		Fixed period exclusions		Permanent exclusions		Fixed period exclusions	
	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]
2003/04	0	0.0	52	21.3	4	11.1	27	1.8
2004/05	*	*	20	19.8	0	0.0	28	2.1

* = 1 or 2 exclusions, or a rate based on 1 or 2 exclusions
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The number of exclusions for physical assault against an adult expressed as a percentage of the total number of exclusions.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many assaults on *(a)* teaching and *(b)* non-teaching staff were perpetrated by pupils in the (i) primary and (ii) secondary sector in Eastbourne in each year since 1997. [130949]

Jim Knight: The number of assaults on staff in schools is not collected centrally.

From the academic year 2003/04, information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. These reasons include 'physical assault against an adult'.

The table provides the number of fixed period and permanent exclusions from maintained primary and secondary schools in Eastbourne parliamentary constituency for assault against an adult.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against an adult—2003/04 and 2004/05—Eastbourne parliamentary constituency

	Exclusions for physical assault against an adult							
	Maintained primary schools				Maintained secondary schools			
	Permanent exclusions[2]		Fixed period exclusions		Permanent exclusions[2]		Fixed period exclusions	
	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
2003/04	*	*	28	16.3	*	*	23	3.7
2004/05	0	0.0	25	8.9	4	36.4	22	1.7

* = 1 or 2 exclusions, or a rate based on 1 or 2 exclusions.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The number of permanent exclusions has been derived from the Termly Exclusions Survey and may differ from published statistics sourced from the School Census.
[3] The number of exclusions for physical assault against an adult expressed as a percentage of the total number of exclusions.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey

Schools: Standards

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools in England were accorded special measures status in each year between 1997 and 2006; and how many pupils attended such schools in each year. [130988]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of schools that were placed in special measures in each academic year between 1997 and 2006.

	Primary	Secondary	Special	PRU	Total
1997/98	210	43	32	5	290
1998/99	142	29	17	6	194
1999/2000	168	38	16	8	230
2000/01	100	23	9	5	137
2001/02	94	19	10	6	129
2002/03	99	35	18	8	160
2003/04	130	61	13	9	213
2004/05	85	37	9	2	103
2005/06	117	32	2	13	164

An estimate of the number of pupils that were attending each school is shown as follows. The figures have been estimated using the current average number of pupils in each type of school.

	Primary	Secondary	Special	PRU	Total
1997/98	49,350	41,925	2,560	175	94,010
1998/99	33,370	28,275	1,360	210	63,215
1999/2000	39,480	37,030	1,280	280	78,090
2000/01	23,580	22,425	720	175	46,830
2001/02	22,090	18,525	800	210	41,625
2002/03	23,265	34,125	1,440	280	59,110
2003/04	30,550	59,475	1,040	315	91,380
2004/05	12,925	36,075	720	70	49,790
2005/06	27,495	31,200	160	455	59,310

Schools: Wycombe

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools in Wycombe constituency have received Excellence in Cities money since 2001; and how much funding each school received. [127372]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 March 2007]:* The High Wycombe Excellence Cluster initially consisted of 14 schools and has received over £3.3 million in Excellence in Cities funding since 2002.

The final decisions on funding allocations to schools were made locally, (by the headteachers and local authority acting in partnership), to ensure that local knowledge informed the targeting of the resources. As the Department does not keep records of individual school allocations, we are unable to say precisely how much funding schools received.

Schools: Yorkshire

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many incidents of *(a)* pupil on pupil and *(b)* pupil on teacher violence occurred in each of the state secondary schools in Yorkshire in each of the last two years. [129711]

Jim Knight: The number of incidents of violence towards staff and pupils in schools is not collected centrally.

From the academic year 2003/04, information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. These reasons include 'physical assault against a pupil' and 'physical assault against an adult'.

A summary table shows the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions from maintained secondary schools in the Yorkshire and Humber region for physical assault against a pupil or an adult. In addition a school level table has been placed in the Library.

Maintained secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against a pupil or an adult 2003/04 and 2004/05—Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region

	Maintained secondary schools							
	Permanent exclusions[2]				Fixed period exclusions			
	Physical assault against a pupil		Physical assault against an adult		Physical assault against a pupil		Physical assault against an adult	
	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
2003/04	130	17.1	110	14.9	7,530	18.5	1,410	3.5

Maintained secondary schools [1]: number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against a pupil or an adult 2003/04 and 2004/05—Yorkshire and the Humber Government Office Region

	Maintained secondary schools							
	Permanent exclusions [2]				Fixed period exclusions			
	Physical assault against a pupil		Physical assault against an adult		Physical assault against a pupil		Physical assault against an adult	
	Number	Percentage [3]	Number	Percentage [3]	Number	Percentage [3]	Number	Percentage [3]
2004/05	140	19.9	110	14.9	8,110	19.7	1,360	3.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Figures are based on Termly Exclusions Survey returns and may differ from published statistics on permanent exclusions which have been sourced from the School Census.
[3] The number of exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of exclusions.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Chorley constituency have a teacher with a formal music qualification. [125250]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

In 2002 an estimated 6,300 full-time teachers were teaching music in maintained schools in England. Of these, an estimated 87 per cent. (4 percentage points) held a Post A level qualification in music. The source of this information is the 2002 Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey and is the latest available.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Population

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the principal population projections of the Government Actuary's Department for 2031, what estimate he has made of the effect of the expected increase in the UK's population on UK carbon emissions; and if he will make a statement. [133238]

Ian Pearson: UK carbon dioxide emissions projections include the impact of predicted population growth. Updated projections will be available shortly in the forthcoming Energy White Paper.

Biofuels: Subsidies

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the subsidies which are paid to encourage the growing of biofuels. [132772]

Ian Pearson: The EU's annual €45/ha Energy Aid payment is available to farmers for purpose-grown biofuel crops grown on non set-aside land. Farmers can also receive the Single Payment for purpose-grown biofuel crops on set-aside or where the EU's €45 per hectare energy aid payment is claimed for crops on non set-aside land.

Support for energy crops is also provided by Research and Development funding from DEFRA to increase yields and reduce inputs.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what consultations he has had with public health experts on the possible health impact associated with the reduction of waste bin collection from domestic residences from once a week to once a fortnight or longer intervals; [133670]

(2) what assessment he has made of the possible health implications of the reduction of the domestic residence waste bin collection system from a weekly to a two or three weekly basis. [133671]

Mr. Bradshaw: An independent, DEFRA-funded research study, carried out by Enviros Consulting and Cranfield University, identified no evidence of adverse health impacts resulting from alternate weekly collection (AWC) of household waste.

Waste management, inside and outside the home, carries small health risks. Simple precautions mitigate these risks and there is no evidence that they are increased by AWC of household waste.

Electronic Equipment: Recycling

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimates his Department has made of the likely effect of implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive on recycling levels of the relevant materials. [134383]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government expects the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations, which transpose the WEEE Directive, to lead to an increase in the recycling of metals, plastics and other materials found in WEEE. However, DEFRA has not carried out an assessment to quantify the expected increase.

The Department of Trade and Industry lead on the implementation of the WEEE Directive.

Flood Control: Finance

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much he estimates his Department will need to spend on flood defences in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* England in each of the next five years. [133416]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA has policy responsibility for flood risk management in England only. The Environment Agency (EA) is the principal operating authority and estimates spending of £5.6 million on the Tamworth Flood Alleviation Scheme. The EA's five-year capital works programme also includes the Scotch Brook - Stone scheme at an estimated cost of £1.7 million. A number of other potential schemes have also been identified in Staffordshire but have yet to be evaluated. In addition to its capital programme, the EA has allocated £892,000 in 2007-08 for work on non-routine projects within the county to be funded by levies on local authorities or revenue.

DEFRA grant to all operating authorities in 2007-08 will be in excess of £500 million including grant for local authority coast protection projects which often provide significant flood risk benefits. Future departmental funding for flood risk management is being considered in the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Flood Control: Sea Defences

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Environment Agency expects to publish guidance to landowners on the maintenance of sea defences. [132794]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency plans to publish guidance to landowners on the maintenance of sea defences in June.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how individuals may obtain a home energy check; how much such a check costs; and if he will make a statement. [133283]

Ian Pearson: The Energy Saving Trust provides home energy checks to householders. These can be completed on the Trust's website or by calling into one of its local Energy Efficiency Advice Centres, which provide impartial advice on saving energy in the home. Home energy checks are free to householders.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the Warm Front scheme targets hard-to-reach and hard-to-treat households. [134610]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA closely monitors Eaga plc's activities regarding the delivery of the Warm Front Scheme including activities for those living in homes which are hard to treat or who are harder to reach. For example, Eaga plc work closely with a range of community and voluntary organisations at a local level to help reach vulnerable households.

My Department is currently considering what additional measures can be provided for those who live in homes which cannot be assisted with the range of energy efficiency and heating measures currently offered by the scheme.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister of State expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 15 March 2007, on the Sahara Desert and energy. [134606]

Ian Pearson: The hon. Member's letter has been transferred to the Department of Trade and Industry which has policy responsibility for the energy issue.

Recycling

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities are in compliance with the requirement of the Household Waste Recycling Act 2003 to collect at least two types of recycled material. [130644]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under the Household Waste Recycling Act 2003, all local authorities in England are required to collect at least two types of recyclable waste from all households in their area by the end of 2010.

The latest results from the Audit Commission's Best Value Performance Indicator (BV 91b) for 2005-06 show that 125 authorities (35 per cent. of the 354 with a waste collection responsibility) provided a collection service of two or more materials for recycling from all of their households. 75 per cent. of authorities provided this service to at least 90 per cent. of their households.

Water: Storage

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage water companies to provide more storage capacity. [133776]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency has a duty to secure the proper use of water resources. Water companies have duties to maintain adequate supplies of water and several companies have provision in their water resource plans to enlarge existing reservoirs or construct new ones. These proposals were set out in the 25 year water resources plans they prepared in 2004. The Environment Agency advised Ministers about the appropriateness of these proposals, and other measures to ensure security of supply, in its report "Maintaining water supply", which was published in July 2004.

It would be inappropriate for Ministers to encourage water companies to pursue particular options, since specific proposals may come before us for determination or on appeal.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the occasions in the last 30 years on which members of the indigenous population of a UK Overseas Territory have been expelled from their home in respect of which no legal proceedings are active; and what the dates and circumstances were of each such case. [132424]

Mr. Hoon: There have been no occasions in the last 30 years on which members of the indigenous population of a UK Overseas Territory have been expelled from their home in respect of which no legal proceedings are active.

Cuba: Human Rights

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the Government has made to the United Nations Human Rights Council on human rights in Cuba. [132608]

Mr. Hoon: At the Human Rights Council's (HRC) second regular session in September 2006, the UK—both nationally and through the EU—actively participated in interactive dialogues with more than 40 UN Special Rapporteurs on the basis of their annual reports. During this process we drew particular attention to the human rights situations in a number of countries, including Cuba.

It is anticipated that the 2007 annual report issued by the Special Rapporteur on Cuba will be discussed at the June session of the HRC. The EU again plans to participate in this dialogue, with the objective of highlighting the serious concerns it has over the human rights situation in Cuba. In addition, as a member of HRC, Cuba will be among the first countries to undergo Universal Periodic Review, a mechanism for evaluating each country's human rights standards. The UK supports this system.

Global Opportunities Fund

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other resources have been (i) committed in each of the last three financial years and (ii) pledged for each of the next three financial years to the Global Opportunities Fund. [133568]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested by the hon. Member is provided in the table as follows.

Name of Global Opportunities Fund (GOF)	*GOF allocation (£ million) 2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Afghan counter narcotics [1]	—	16.3	16.3
Climate Change and Energy	4.9	4.7	4.7
Counter Terrorism	7.3	8.8	8.8
Drugs and Crime [1]	—	6.0	6.0
Economic Governance	4.5	5.0	5.0
Engaging with the Islamic World	9.6	8.2	8.2
Human Rights [2]	—	—	3.1
Migration [1,3]	—	1.5	1.5
Overseas Territories [1]	—	5.0	5.0
Reuniting Europe	5.1	5.5	6.1
Sustainable Development [2]	5.0	4.7	1.6

[1] The Afghan counter narcotics, Drugs and Crime, Migration and Overseas Territories programmes were brought under the GOF umbrella in 2006-07.

[2] Human Rights projects were funded under the Sustainable Development programme until 2007-08.

[3] 2007-08 allocation may be increased subject to outcome of ongoing discussions.

To support GOF programmes overseas, there is a network of 100 project officers at posts costing £1.3 million.

GOF programme allocations for the next three financial years will depend on the outcome of the ongoing negotiations with HM Treasury as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Resource Allocation Round that will flow from that. We should know the outcome of the CSR in the autumn.

Latin America: Global Opportunities Fund

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Global Opportunities Fund in Latin America; and if she will make a statement. [133569]

Mr. Hoon: There is no Global Opportunities Fund (GOF) programme specifically dedicated to Latin America; GOF programmes are generally organised by theme rather than geography. The following GOF programmes have projects in Latin America: Climate Change and Energy, Drugs and Crime, Economic Governance, Human Rights and Sustainable Development.

GOF-funded projects have achieved some notable recent successes in Latin America. Our Embassy in Mexico City, along with the British Council, received an award in October 2006 from then President Fox for their GOF-funded governance work. In Colombia, GOF projects have focussed on strengthening the prosecution service and implementation of the Justice and Peace Law. One project, part-funded by GOF and aimed at improving the case handling of and protection for child victims of sexual exploitation, received a UN21 Commendation for outstanding field projects. Out of 4,500 project nominations, only 20 received an award.

North Korea: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the status of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear disarmament. [134614]

Dr. Howells: We assess that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has not fulfilled its commitments in Phase one of the Six Party Talks, Initial Actions for the Implementation of the September 2005 Joint Statement. The Joint Statement obliged the DPRK to abandon all its nuclear weapons and nuclear programmes. Phase one set a deadline of 60 days, from the 13 February, for North Korea to shut down and seal the Yongbyon nuclear facility and to re-admit International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors. It also called for North Korea to discuss with other parties to the talks, a list of all its nuclear programmes including plutonium already extracted from Yongbyon. We note with concern that the DPRK has not carried out these undertakings within the agreed timeframe. However, we welcomed the visit by the IAEA Director, Dr. Mohamed El Baradei, on 13-14 March to discuss preparations for the re-admittance of IAEA inspectors.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: North East Region

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average response time was for ambulances to reach patients in *(a)* North Yorkshire, *(b)* County Durham and *(c)* Cumbria in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [133130]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collect information of the average response times by ambulance trust. It does, however, collect data from national health service ambulance trusts which allow response time standards to be monitored. The response times for the ambulance services for the Cumbria, North Yorkshire and County Durham areas are shown in the following table.

Category A calls, response within 8 minutes and 19 minutes, by ambulance trusts 2005-06

	Percentage	
	Within 8 minutes	*Within 19 minutes*
Cumbria Ambulance Service Trust	74.4	93.3
North East Ambulance Service Trust	75.3	99.0
Tees, East and North Yorkshire Ambulance Trust	75.0	97.5

Note:
In 2005-06 there were some inconsistencies in the measurement of the category A response times (eight minutes) for six ambulance trusts, this included Cumbria Ambulance Service.

Source:
The Information Centre, form KA34.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her Department has had with the Screening Advisory Committee on the effectiveness of extending the NHS Breast Screening Programme's upper age limit beyond 70 years. [134378]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The evidence for inviting women aged over 70 on a population basis is not clear. That is why research has been commissioned on behalf of the Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer Screening (ACBCS) to bring more clarity to this area. A modelling exercise has been carried out to look at the potential benefits, and a draft final report has been produced and peer reviewed. The research team have now amended the report based on the peer review comments, and this report will now be discussed by the ACBCS at their next meeting in the summer. The ACBCS will advise on a way forward.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of women diagnosed with breast cancer received an HER2 test in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what steps her Department is taking to monitor the implementation of the Government commitment that all women diagnosed with breast cancer should receive a HER2 test. [134379]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not routinely collect figures on the number of breast cancer patients who are tested for HER2.

As set out in the written ministerial statement of 17 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 5WS, 28 out of the then 34 cancer networks reported that they were HER-2 testing all women diagnosed with early stage breast cancer. The remaining six reported that they would be testing all these women by the end of October 2006. These networks have since reported that they are now HER-2 testing all women with early breast cancer.

No further progress reports have been requested.

Care Homes: Northamptonshire

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes in Northamptonshire received Dignity in Care grants in 2006. [134436]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No Dignity in Care grants to care homes were awarded in 2006.

These grants, announced in November 2006, are to be made available during 2007-08. The grants will support minor improvements to the environment to enhance the dignity and quality of life of older residents. Effective use of the grants will help older people living in care homes to do so with dignity, and enable care home providers to be more responsive to the needs of their older residents.

The grants are being paid to local authorities under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. Grant allocations will be made to local authorities in May 2007, subject to agreement by the Department of spending proposals submitted by each authority. The local authority will arrange the distribution of the capital to individual care home providers in accordance with their submission.

We are currently considering the spending plan submitted by Northamptonshire county council, which proposes distributing their grant allocation of £805,000 among 86 care homes.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 330W, on colorectal cancer: screening, how many testing kits were sent out each month from April 2006 to February 2007 in each of the 49 primary care trusts covered by the programme. [134236]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 26 April 2007]*: The information requested is shown in the table.

Number of testing kits issued

	2006						2007			
Primary care trust	*July*	*Aug.*	*Sept.*	*Oct.*	*Nov.*	*Dec.*	*Jan.*	*Feb.*	*Mar*	*Total*
Walsall Teaching	0	0	0	847	1,386	1,010	1,614	959	1,168	6,984
Wolverhampton City	1,033	1,419	1,359	1,145	723	775	1,324	763	837	9,378
Dudley	0	0	0	468	699	474	793	1,989	1,198	5,621
South Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	259	225	342	204	275	1,305
Norfolk	0	2,689	2,886	4,074	2,793	1,982	3,246	3,400	3,102	24,172
Sefton	0	0	0	0	6	0	1,655	1,539	1,322	4,516
Liverpool	0	0	0	2,088	4,251	2,999	2,781	2,050	1,773	15,942
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	502	1,124	1,626
Salford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	356	356
Bolton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	383	913	1,296
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	794	3,217	2,844	6,855
Devon	0	0	48	1,416	1,393	1,033	741	640	441	5,712
Torbay Care Trust	0	0	48	1,548	1,496	1,156	776	626	542	6,192
Hillingdon	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,241	992	1,052	3,285
Brent Teaching	0	0	0	964	1,105	1,123	1,524	1,138	1,058	6,912
Harrow	0	0	0	0	1,008	850	1,232	950	1,000	5,040
Tower Hamlets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	514	514
Newham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	294	294
Wandsworth	0	0	0	0	748	783	1,133	869	859	4,392
Richmond and Twickenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	680	790	723	2,193
Sutton and Merton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,368	1,409	2,777
Hartlepool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	179	706	885
North Tees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	299	1,401	1,700
Middlesbrough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	249	989	1,238
North Yorkshire and York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	317	1,353	1,670
Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	248	1,163	1,411
County Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	232	1,063	1,295
Gateshead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	365	1,602	1,967
South Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	266	1,136	1,402
Sunderland Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	513	2,075	2,588
Hull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,727	1,727
Derbyshire County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	745	745

Notes: This information is based on the new configuration of PCTs.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 330W, on colorectal cancer: screening, whether responsibility for the screening programme in 2007-08 resides with strategic health authorities or primary care trusts; and what measures are in place to ensure that the funding provided by her Department is used for the purpose of colorectal cancer screening. [134237]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 26 April 2007]*: Funding for the national health service bowel cancer screening programme from the strategic health authority (SHA) bundle was allocated to Yorkshire and the Humber SHA to manage on behalf of all 10 SHAs in England. NHS Cancer Screening Programmes currently manage the budget on behalf of Yorkshire and the Humber SHA through a service level agreement.

NHS Cancer Screening Programmes make payments directly to NHS trusts who host the bowel cancer screening hubs and local screening centres. The payments are made on a population served basis.

It is for SHAs working in partnership with their primary care trusts (PCTs) and local stakeholders to organise and provide services for their local populations. SHAs were asked to bid for their local endoscopy services to become local screening centres as part of the second wave of the bowel cancer screening programme for 2007-08. These bids have been assessed, and second wave sites are currently being finalised. We are anticipating a considerable expansion of the programme in 2007-08.

The expectation is that funding for the programme will be in PCT baseline allocations once the programme is fully rolled out across England by December 2009.

Dental Services: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to increase the numbers of *(a)* NHS dentists and *(b)* places available to register with an NHS dentist in Leeds. [134434]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the dental reforms introduced in April 2006, primary care trusts (PCTs) are commissioning an increasing volume of national health service dental services, which is likely to result in further workforce increases. In 2005, the Government expanded the number of dental school places by 25 per cent. in order to support longer term increases in the dental workforce. The number of training places at the University of Leeds Dental School has been increased from 53 to 75, with an additional six places allocated to an outreach training scheme in Hull. The first cohort of new dental graduates will qualify in 2010.

Leeds PCT is working to improve access to NHS dentistry. It has recruited three additional dentists in North West Leeds and has established the Leeds Dental Advice Line to help patients access dental services, including emergency services.

Maternity Services: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when she expects a children's and maternity hospital to be built in Leeds; [134435]

(2) if she will take steps to provide additional *(a)* services for children and *(b)* maternity services in Leeds during the period of postponement of the building of a dedicated children's and maternity hospital. [134498]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 April 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1269-70W.

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish *(a)* evidence from and *(b)* an evaluation of her Department's local involvement network early adopter sites. [134185]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 26 April 2007]*: The Healthcare Commission, Commission for Social Care Inspection, NHS Centre for Involvement (NCI), the Centre for Public Scrutiny, Care Services Improvement Partnership, the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) and the Department are jointly overseeing the early adopter projects which are testing out how local involvement networks might work in practice. The learning from the sites is already being made available through a range of communication mechanisms including the CPPIH knowledge management system, the NCI's website and the Department's LINk bulletin. This process of sharing lessons learnt will continue throughout the duration of the projects. The time frame for the report of the formal evaluation is still to be settled by the partner organisations.

South London and Maudsley NHS Trust

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reports requested by the courts could not be supplied by South London and Maudsley Foundation Trust in 2006. [132784]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the chair of South London and Maudsley National Health Service Foundation Trust. We have written to Madeline Long informing her of your inquiry. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Alcoholic Drinks

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many litres of alcoholic drinks were purchased for sale *(a)* in bars and restaurants of the House and *(b)* by the House Refreshment Department for catering functions on the Parliamentary estate in each year since 2005. [134496]

Nick Harvey: The Refreshment Department does not purchase drinks for specific trading areas, but issues goods as required from its central store. The estimated quantity of alcoholic drinks consumed in the 11 months to February 2007 is estimated to be *(a)* 53,495 litres in the bars and restaurants and *(b)* 30,517 litres at functions supplied by the House of Commons Refreshment Department. The following table details by outlet, however this does not include alcohol transferred to our souvenir outlets.

April 2006 to February 2007 (11 months)

	Quantity (litres)	*Estimated cost of consumption (£)*
Bars and restaurants		
(a) Beers and ciders	34,377	52,620
(b) Aperitifs, fortified wines and spirits	743	9,729
(c) Wines	18,377	130,922
Total	53,497	193,270
Catering functions		
(d) Beers and ciders	1,371	2,539
(e) Aperitifs, fortified wines and spirits	700	7,703
(f) Wines	28,446	176,380
Total	30,517	186,622

Detailed consumption information is not currently available for the year 2005-06 due to technical issues that are being investigated by the software supplier. The Director of Catering Services will write to the hon. Member with the requested information when it becomes available.

The software used by the Refreshment Department does not retain historical information of stock consumption for earlier years.

House of Commons: Drinking Water

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost was of bottled water provided to the House in each of the last five financial years; and what the estimated cost is for the 2007-08 financial year. [133377]

Nick Harvey: The cost of bottled water purchased by the House of Commons in each of the last five financial years is estimated as follows. However, the hon. Member should note that the Refreshment Department sells water to its customers at a profit, and so the cost of water purchased for sale in the Refreshment Department outlets (item (a) in the table as follows) is not a cost to the House.

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Cost of bottled water purchases					
(a) Refreshment Department	[1]58,832	[1]55,895	47,820	53,188	49,271
(b) Committee Rooms	n/a	n/a	8,357	6,656	8,340
(c) Office supplies (estimated)	n/a	5,165	7,449	6,095	6,988
Estimated Total Cost of Purchases	58,832	61,060	63,626	65,939	64,599

[1] Including committee rooms

No information is available for the current financial year to March 2008.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on his Department's current projects in Afghanistan. [132267]

Hilary Benn: Afghanistan is DFID's sixth largest programme and we are Afghanistan's second largest bilateral donor. We are focusing on three things: building effective state institutions; improving economic management and aid effectiveness; and improving the livelihoods of rural people. We plan to spend £107 million in 2007-08.

To help build effective state institutions, DFID provided £1.6 million to the World Bank to help the government restructure key ministries in Kabul and the provinces. Pay reforms are helping to attract and retain qualified civil servants, doctors and teachers, and we have just finished supporting the government to come up with a comprehensive capacity building plan.

DFID's economic programme is working to strengthen the government's capacity to manage and grow the legal economy. We are providing £165 million from 2006-09 through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund to fund recurrent costs such as doctors' and teachers' salaries. We are also raising the quality of public spending and level of domestic revenues through technical assistance worth £15 million in the Ministry of Finance, and increasing opportunities for enterprise in Afghanistan with a £9 million portfolio on private sector development.

DFID's Livelihoods programme is playing a major role in supporting the government of Afghanistan to create an environment that will foster opportunities for legal livelihoods, including support to the National Solidarity Programme (£28 million over six years to fund community-based projects); the Microfinance Investment and Support Facility Afghanistan (£15 million over three years); and the Horticulture and Livelihoods Programme (£7 million over three years). We are also supporting the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the Ministry of Agriculture in policy formulation and programming (£4.5 million); funding research into alternative crops (e.g. mint and saffron) and other livelihoods (£3 million); and assisting the government in preparing national land policy and reform (£335,000).

DFID has also committed up to £20 million of our 2007-08 budget to support the UK effort in Helmand. Last year we contributed £4 million (part of an overall commitment by Her Majesty's Government of £6.2 million) to support quick impact projects such as school construction and repairs. Our commitment also includes £30 million over three years (2006-09) for the government of Afghanistan's Helmand Agricultural and Rural Development Programme, which will benefit around 590,000 people and create 15,000 new jobs through speeding up the draw down of national programmes to Helmand.

Civil Society Challenge Fund

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other resources have been (i) committed in each of the last three financial years and (ii) pledged for each of the next three financial years to the Civil Society Challenge Fund. [133570]

Mr. Thomas: Over the last three financial years, programme funds provided through the Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) have amounted to:

£ million

2004-05	10.338
2005-06	13.885
2006-07	[1]13.6

[1] Estimated—final expenditure is not yet available.

We currently plan to maintain CSCF funding at £14 million a year.

In terms of other resources, a team of 7.5 full-time equivalent officials is responsible for management of the CSCF, including contributions to technical assessments, contract management and day-to-day programme administration for the large number of projects under way at any time (there will be 153 projects under CSCF support during 2007-08). Additional technical support on the assessment of

project proposals and on monitoring is provided by external consultants. The amount paid under this consultancy have been:

	£
2004-05	109,549
2005-06	329,466
2006-07	[1]227,578

[1] Estimated - final expenditure is not yet available.

The apparent increase in expenditure between 2004-05 and 2005-06 reflects timing of payments made around the end of financial year 2004-05. Overall consultancy inputs and expenditure have not changed significantly over the three-year period.

Developing Countries: AIDS

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will propose discussion of a comprehensive funding plan for universal access to treatment for AIDS sufferers by 2010 at the G8 Heads of State meeting in June. [132991]

Mr. Thomas: The UK made AIDS a centrepiece of the 2005 G8 and EU presidencies. We pressed for and secured international commitments to universal access to HIV treatment. We subsequently worked hard to ensure that this commitment was endorsed and expanded by the international community in the Political Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS (2 June 2006). This declaration committed to achieve comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010. It also agreed that countries would develop ambitious targets, including interim targets for 2008, to measure progress towards universal access. Crucially, it also set out a process by which countries will develop national AIDS plans to scale up towards universal access by 2010, and made the commitment that no credible, costed, national AIDS plan should go unfunded.

By early 2007, 90 countries had developed targets for achieving universal access, and at least 23 countries had proceeded with costing their strategic plans. The UK is pressing UNAIDS to define what constitutes a credible national AIDS plan. We are also pressing for a multi-stakeholder process in country to review universal access plans as they are developed, to agree their credibility and ensure they are fully funded.

We will push hard to ensure an ongoing focus by the G8 on achieving its commitment to universal access. We see our work with UNAIDS as central to unlocking the G8 and international community's commitment to funding credible, costed national AIDS plans. And we will ensure that this work is discussed as we prepare for the G8 Heiligendamm summit in June.

Latin America: Civil Society Challenge Fund

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Civil Society Challenge Fund in Latin America; and if he will make a statement. [133571]

Mr. Thomas: No aggregate assessment has been made of the effectiveness of Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) projects in Latin America. However, for each project funded under the CSCF, including those in Latin America, implementing agencies are required to submit annual progress reports, as well as a project completion report and independent evaluation at project end.

Philippines: Food Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is making available to the World Food Programme initiative to provide emergency relief in Jolo, Southern Philippines. [133887]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is monitoring the situation in Jolo. As the Government of the Philippines are coping, we are not planning to respond. However, we will consider any requests for international assistance from the Government of the Philippines, and stand ready to respond should the humanitarian situation deteriorate.

World Bank

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his international counterparts concerning the World Bank president; and if he will make a statement. [133813]

Hilary Benn: At the Spring Meetings of the World Bank I discussed the issue with my fellow Governors of the Bank and we agreed the following section of the Development Committee Communiqué, dealing with the allegations against President Wolfowitz:

"We have to ensure that the Bank can effectively carry out its mandate and maintain its credibility and reputation, as well as the motivation of its staff. The current situation is of great concern to all of us. We endorse the Board's actions in looking into this matter, and we asked it to complete its work. We expect the Bank to adhere to a high standard of internal governance."

I have had follow-up discussions with some Governors since the Spring Meetings.

We expect the World Bank executive directors to meet again this week to discuss the next steps.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Fly Tipping

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what work has been undertaken by the two cross-border working groups set up by him and the Government of the Republic of Ireland dealing with unauthorised waste activities and the transfrontier shipment of wastes; how many meetings each has held; what conclusions each has reached; what outcomes have resulted; and if he will make a statement. [133924]

David Cairns: The Unauthorised Waste Activities (UWA) group was established to co-ordinate regional enforcement action against unauthorised waste activities. In addition to its co-ordinated enforcement actions, the group has also held seminars in

conjunction with the Garda Siochana. The group first met in September 2004 and met six times in the first year The group was then reformed into a smaller regional co-ordinator working group which has gone on to meet seven times.

The focus of the Transfrontier Shipment of Waste (TfS) Group has been on better and consistent enforcement by local authorities of the legislation covering cross-border movements of waste. This has involved action to check legitimate waste movements to Northern Ireland, development of guidance and training and liaison with European regulators. The TfS group first met in September 2004 and has met 13 times to date.

The work is ongoing but has been acknowledged as bringing about better enforcement of environmental legislation on the island of Ireland. The research undertaken has enabled the scale of illegal waste activity on the island to be quantified and future plans to tackle it determined.

Participation in the groups has led to improved communication and liaison between Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland enforcement authorities involved in illegal waste enforcement cases. Increased co-ordination of enforcement activity on both sides of the border has led to a major reduction in the trafficking of illegal waste from the Republic of Ireland into Northern Ireland. At the same time, there has been a reduction in the movement of illegal waste to Europe and beyond.

Sewage: Waste Disposal

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many households in each *(a)* council district and *(b)* parliamentary constituency had septic tank emptying agreements with Northern Ireland Water before 31 March 2007. [134924]

David Cairns: The Water and Sewerage Services (NI) Order 2006 transferred responsibility for the delivery of water and sewerage services from the Department's Water Service Agency to a statutory water and sewerage undertaker. A government-owned company, Northern Ireland Water (NIW) has been appointed as the undertaker and the issues raised are operational matters for it. I have asked the chief executive of NIW (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to these questions.

SCOTLAND

Second Homes: Voting Rights

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) what the residential requirements are for second home owners to have their names entered on the electoral roll in Scotland; [134471]

(2) what basis decisions are made to permit the names of second home owners in Scotland to be entered on the electoral roll and vote in Scottish parliamentary and local government elections. [134472]

David Cairns: A person's name may appear on the electoral register only if they reside at an address within the electoral area. Residence is not defined in law, but it is held to entail a considerable degree of permanence. It is for the Electoral Registration Officer to decide, in light of the relevant circumstances, whether a person may be said to be resident at a particular address. This includes second home owners, in Scotland or elsewhere in the UK.

It is possible for a person to appear on more than one electoral register. It is for the Electoral Registration Officer to decide on the basis of the information provided to them. Due regard must be given to the purpose and other circumstances of the person's presence at or absence from an address. For example, where a person is staying at a non-permanent location for a particular time, they may be considered to be either (i) resident at that address because they have no home elsewhere or (ii) not resident there if they do have a home elsewhere. Absence due to the performance of any duty associated with office, service or employment, or absence due to attendance at an educational course, does not constitute an interruption to a person's residence. For example, a student who has a permanent home address and a term-time address, and spends about the same amount of time in each, can be registered lawfully at both addresses.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Sentencing: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Solicitor-General whether he plans to review decisions by local Crown Prosecution Service offices not to appeal sentences for being too lenient in the case of offences involving violence; and if he will make a statement. [134527]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not have a power to appeal sentences on the ground of leniency. The Law Officers do however have a power, under the Criminal Justice Act 1988, to refer sentences passed in certain Crown court cases to the Court of Appeal for review, if of the opinion that a sentence passed in such a case was unduly lenient. Any reference to the Court of Appeal must be made within 28 days of the sentence being passed.

The Law Officers regularly receive requests from the CPS to consider referring sentences of concern to the Court of Appeal, including in cases of violence. There are no plans to review local CPS decisions not to do so. The Law Officers also receive requests to review sentences from victims (or families of victims), Members of Parliament and members of the public.

I am aware that the hon. Member has expressed concern about sentences passed in a case at Peterborough Crown court last month. The sentences are being considered by the Law Officers and the hon. Member will be written to directly in due course.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Balance of Trade

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the trade balance was with the EU in each year since 1977. [132811]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: Estimates of the UK balance of trade in goods and services with the EU25 are only available from 1999. The latest estimates including initial figures for 2006 are shown (at current prices) in the following table:

	£ billion
1999	-10.4
2000	-7.2
2001	-14.1
2002	-24.3
2003	-28.3
2004	-30.5
2005	-37.4
2006	-37.2

Estimates of the balance of trade in goods and services with the EU15 from 1977 to 2004 are shown (at current prices) in the following table:

	£ billion
1977	-2.1
1978	-2.8
1979	-3.2
1980	0.4
1981	-0.8
1982	-2.7
1983	-4.0
1984	-4.8
1985	-3.4
1986	-11.3
1987	-12.8
1988	-17.5
1989	-19.3
1990	-13.7
1991	-4.3
1992	-5.3
1993	-5.4
1994	-6.5
1995	-4.4
1996	-5.3
1997	-4.5
1998	-6.0
1999	-10.1
2000	-6.5
2001	-12.8
2002	-22.7
2003	-26.1
2004	-27.6

Note:
Data for 1991 and earlier years are not fully consistent with those for later years as they do not incorporate revisions or methodology changes made after 1997, in particular to statistics on trade in services.
Source:
ONS Balance of Payments statistics

Clothing: Fire Prevention

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the regulations are regarding flammability and safety of children's nightwear. [132116]

Mr. McCartney: The fire safety of children's nightwear in the UK is governed by The Nightwear (Safety) Regulations 1985. These Regulations place a requirement on suppliers of nightwear—manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, retailers—to ensure that children's nightwear, such as nightdresses, dressing gowns, bath robes and similar garments, meet the specified safety flammability requirements.

Control of Misleading Advertisements Regulations 1988

Frank Cook: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions there have been with industry representatives on updating the Control of Misleading Advertisements Regulations 1988; and if he will make a statement. [134174]

Mr. McCartney: The provisions of the Control of Misleading Advertisements Regulations 1988 (CMARs) dealing with misleading advertisements directed at consumers will be replaced from 6 April 2008 by regulations implementing the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive (UCPD). The UCPD introduces a general prohibition on unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices. For the sake of clarity the UCPD sets out how practices may be unfair by misleading consumers through action or omission.

As a consequence, the scope of the original Misleading and Comparative Advertising Directive (MCAD), which the CMARs implement, has been narrowed to cover only business-to-business relationships.

The Government have held extensive consultation with interested parties on how the UCPD should be implemented. They will also be consulting on draft regulations implementing the UCPD, and re-implementing the MCAD as amended by the UCPD, at the end of May.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent on hospitality by his Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133266]

Jim Fitzpatrick: For 2006-07 the total expenditure on hospitality and entertainment of the Department was £1,420,000. All departmental expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134053]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since 2000 all DTI's publications and photocopying use recycled paper. The in-house reprographics section use 100 per cent. recycled paper for photocopying. Printed publications contain a minimum of 75 per cent. post consumer waste.

OM Energy

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the status is of the OM Energy projects; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Government support for OM Energy. [134228]

Mr. McCartney: Phase one of the OM Energy project has progressed well with its objectives being fully met including academic validation of the technology; the establishment of a UK company; the securing of private seed capital investment; the filing of a worldwide patent; and the design of a next generation laboratory prototype. Phase two will begin shortly and discussions are under way with top UK engineering firm to evaluate potential market applications and the design of commercial prototype.

Government support has been effective because much of this activity was achieved with assistance from UK Trade and Investment's Global Entrepreneur Programme. This has seen the formation of a pioneering UK company, developing an exciting technology in the renewable energy sector.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been spent by his Department on assistance to OM Energy Ltd. [134229]

Mr. McCartney: OM Energy is a client of the UK Trade and Investment's Global Entrepreneur Programme (GEP) and an inward investment success having migrated from Russia in 2006. The company has received no financial help from the GEP. The type of assistance provided has been within the terms of the programme, namely advice, signposting, guidance and introductions to key relevant networks, including business angels.

Post Offices

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received on the decision to relocate 70 post office branches to WH Smith stores. [134004]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have received two representations from MP's relating to the decision to relocate 70 post office branches to WH Smith stores. The Government are regularly kept informed of progress with Post Office's business strategy.

Post Office Ltd reached this commercial deal as a way of tackling the losses currently sustained by Crown branches.

Radio: Illegal Broadcasting

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps are being taken to combat pirate radio stations. [134589]

Margaret Hodge: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Telecommunications: Billing

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with British Telecom on its additional charges for payment of bills by cheque or cash. [133935]

Margaret Hodge: I have not held discussions with British Telecom on this issue. However, I have raised the matter with the chief executive officer of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Ofcom is considering whether any of the changes BT has recently made raise any regulatory issues and is coming back to me on this in May.

I understand that, BT has applied a price differential between customers who pay their accounts by direct debit and those who pay by other means for a number of years. This reflects the increased processing and debt management costs associated with payments not made by direct debit. Such differentials are common practice among communications providers and utility service providers.

From 1 May 2007, BT is changing how it presents this differential from a discount for those customers paying by direct debit, to a charge for those paying by other means for a number of years. BT has combined this change with an increase of £1.50 a quarter in the charge (from £3 to £4.50).

The Light User Scheme and In Contact Plus will not be affected by the increased charge. These are the special tariff schemes offered to vulnerable customers by BT as a result of the Universal Service Obligation placed on the company.

Trade

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what *(a)* progress was made on the reduction of agricultural subsidies and *(b)* deadline was set to complete the Doha round of talks at the World Trade Organisation at talks in New Delhi between the United States, the European Union, Brazil and India; [132632]

(2) what reports he has received from Commissioner Mandelson following trade talks in New Delhi; and if he will make a statement; [132633]

(3) what progress was made towards a successful conclusion of the Doha round of talks at the World Trade Organisation in New Delhi between the United States, the European Union, Brazil and India. [132634]

Mr. McCartney: Following these discussions, Trade Ministers representing the EU, the US, Brazil, India, Australia and Japan (the G6 countries) issued a statement reaffirming their commitment to reach convergence and conclude the Doha round by the end of this year. This has been the clear message relayed to all EU member states by the Commission in subsequent Council meetings.

The UK Government welcome this statement: we remain fully committed to securing an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the DDA. We will continue to press all WTO members to show the flexibility needed to reach agreement.

Wood: Russia

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the compatibility of recent increases in timber export tariffs from Russia with the standstill agreement Russia signed with the EU prior to its accession to the World Trade Organisation. [133349]

Mr. McCartney: The European Commission represents the EU and negotiates on WTO accession applications.

Russia's planned increases in export duties on timber are, in the Commission's view, incompatible with the bilateral market access agreement signed between the EU and Russia in May 2004. The Commission is in the process of intense discussion with Russia on this issue with the aim of seeing EU imports preserved.

TRANSPORT

Eurotunnel

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 775W, on Eurotunnel, what assessment he has made of the potential impact on the operation of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link should Eurotunnel go into receivership. [133928]

Mr. Tom Harris: In the event of receivership, the Concession Agreement allows for a change of ownership of the Concession, which need not have any impact on the operation of the CTRL.

Galileo Project

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timetable is for completion of the Galileo global navigation system. [134360]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Blackley (Graham Stringer) on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1244W.

Motor Vehicles: Air Pollution

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the full life cycle analysis of the pollution caused by *(a)* hybrid, *(b)* fuel-cell and *(c)* conventional petrol powered vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [132077]

Dr. Ladyman: There have been various studies of lifecycle carbon dioxide emissions for cars (although they have not compared different fuel technologies). These suggest that a clear majority—around 80 per cent.—of CO_2 emissions arise during the operational phase of a vehicle's life rather than during construction and disposal. We therefore consider that focusing on in-use emissions remains an appropriate approach to reducing the CO_2 footprint of vehicles. At the same time, manufacture and disposal are important, and we welcome measures by industry to address emissions created during these phases. With respect to fuel cell vehicles, life cycle CO_2 emissions are likely to be largely dependent on the energy source used to manufacture the hydrogen for the fuel cell.

The picture is different for pollutants that may affect local air quality, such as volatile organic compounds, oxides of nitrogen and sulphur, and particulate matter. Industry figures suggest that over half of such emissions are created during manufacture and disposal of vehicles. For fuel cell vehicles, almost all the local air pollution emissions are created during manufacture and disposal.

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Railway Stations: Smoking

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will develop a joint strategy with the Secretary of State for Health to inform rail passengers about the imminent introduction of the ban on smoking on station premises; [133936]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* train operators make an early start in informing their passengers of the forthcoming ban on smoking at railway, coach and bus stations. [133937]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department of Health (DoH) is conducting a significant communications campaign aimed at the public to ensure maximum awareness of the smoke free legislation before its implementation on 1 July. The Department for Transport has discussed the issue of communication with rail passengers with the Association of Train Operating Companies and Network Rail and provided advice to DoH on issues such as enforcement and signage arrangements on the rail and bus networks.

Railways: South East Region

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1384-5W, on railways: South East region, what definition he uses of overcrowding as a percentage of available capacity; and if he will consult train user groups on this issue. [134513]

Mr. Tom Harris: The overcrowding measure is derived from the number of passengers travelling in excess of capacity on all services divided by the total number of people travelling, expressed as a percentage.

The High Level Output Specification (HLOS), to be published in summer, will set out the additional rail capacity the Government propose to buy to meet the recent and forecast growth in demand for rail travel. It is too early to say precisely where the additional rolling stock will be used: the rail industry's October 2007 response to the HLOS will identify this.

Roads: Construction

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on road building in each year since 1997, including funding through private finance initiative projects. [134638]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Rochdale (Paul Rowen) on 10 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 603W.

Smith Institute

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Smith Institute events he has *(a)* attended and *(b)* spoken at in an official capacity in the last two years. [133425]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State for Transport has not attended a Smith Institute event in his departmental capacity in the last two years.

Tolls: Greater London

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on the *(a)* gross and *(b)* net income from congestion charging in London. [134204]

Gillian Merron: Under the provisions of the GLA Act 1999, Transport for London are required to submit their future spending plans for net proceeds of the London Congestion Charging Scheme every four years. In November 2006 the Secretary of State approved their plans for doing so through to April 2010. There have been no recent discussions between the Secretary of State and the Mayor of London on the specific subject of congestion charging income.

West Coast Railway Line

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the status of seven day per week train services on the West Coast Main Line following the completion of track upgrade in 2008. [133589]

Mr. Tom Harris: The West Coast Main Line upgrade will be substantially completed in time for the introduction of an enhanced passenger timetable in December 2008. From that date, Network Rail intends to introduce revised arrangements for infrastructure maintenance works which will sharply reduce the number of occasions when weekend journeys are disrupted by route blockages.

TREASURY

Bank Services

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been taken to promote and advertise the basic bank account to *(a)* the unemployed, *(b)* people with disabilities and *(c)* the elderly. [134068]

Ed Balls: The Government's goal is that everyone should be able to manage their money effectively and securely through having access to a bank account, and the confidence and capability to get the most from it.

This goal was set out in the Government's strategy to tackle financial inclusion, "Financial Inclusion—the way forward", published in March 2007. Since 2004 the banking industry has shared with the Government a goal to halve the number of adults living in households without access to a bank account, mainly through promotion of basic bank accounts. Latest Family Resources Survey data shows the number of unbanked adults had fallen from 2.8 million in 2002-03 to 2 million in 2005-06.

Encouraging benefit recipients and pensioners to open bank accounts and make greater use of them is a key element of the Government's strategy to increase access to banking. Since the move to Direct Payment started in 2003, 98 per cent. of DWP benefits are now paid directly into an account. The Government provide information on basic bank accounts to benefit customers and pensioners to help them decide which account to have their benefit paid into.

In January 2007, the Government launched the "now let's talk money campaign". The campaign is working with trusted intermediaries in regular contact with financially excluded people such as housing associations and charities, to provide information on the availability of bank accounts and other mainstream financial products and services. The campaign is advised by a stakeholder forum, which includes charities representing the elderly and those with learning disabilities.

Departments: Tribal Group

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts his Department awarded to *(a)* Geronimo Communications Ltd. and *(b)* its parent company Tribal Group plc. in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of each contract. [133742]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

(a) HM Treasury have awarded no contracts to Geronimo Communications Ltd. within the last three years

(b) HM Treasury contracts with Tribal Group companies within the last three years:

Description	Value (£)
Tribal Consortium	
Replacement of IMPReS—Appointment of Project Consultant to conduct a feasibility study	10,430.00
GSR Fast Stream 2007—Fast Stream Recruitment Services	15,533.00
Tribal Resourcing—Newcastle New Recruits Conference services—January 2007	902.07
Tribal Consultants Ltd	
Assistance with Application Training and Process work in Group IS at HMT	129,565.00
Assistance with Technical Investigation and Procurement work in Group IS at HMT	133,000.00
Total last 3 years	289,430.07

Gold and Foreign Exchange Reserves

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice he received from the Bank of England before his decision to sell the Treasury's bullion reserves between 1999 and 2002. [132892]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 20 April 2007]*: Treasury officials provided the advice to the Chancellor leading to his decision to sell 395 tonnes of gold between July 1999 and March 2002. This advice was provided after technical consultation with the Bank of England.

HM Revenue and Customs

Hywel Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the approach taken to local economic impact surveys will be in relation to offices classified by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as being individual locations, with particular reference to the Porthmadog HMRC office. [134381]

John Healey: HMRC is undertaking a series of regional planning reviews of all its accommodation to bring it into line with future operational requirements. For the purpose of these reviews offices have been grouped into three categories: urban centres, clusters of offices, and individual locations (offices more than 25km from any other HMRC office), of which Porthmadog is one.

Each review will include a consultation exercise and detailed feasibility work. An impact assessment will be produced for every office, in all categories, which is identified at the end of this stage of the review process as a candidate for closure. The assessments will consider the social and economic effects of closure on staff, customers and the wider community. Final decisions will be taken in the light of these assessments.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 280W, on ministerial policy advisers, whether the Council of Economic Advisers is involved in announcements outside the Treasury's remit. [133658]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Treasury Press Notices of 4 August 1997 and 28 June 2006:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/1997/press_99_97.cfm

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2006/press_45_06.cfm

National Income

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average income of each decile was in financial year 2006-07. [134501]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 April 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average income for each decile was in the financial year 2006/07. I am replying in her absence. (134501).

Estimates for 2006/07 are not yet available. The latest data covers the financial year 2004/05 and is in the ONS analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income'. This can be found on the National Statistics website at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits. The data for 2005/06 is due to be published on the website on 17th May 2007. The analysis is based on the annual Expenditure and Food Survey, which is a sample survey covering approximately 7,000 households in the UK.

The table below shows both gross and disposable income for income decile groups. The income decile groups are determined by ranking households according to their equivalised disposable income. Equivalised incomes are standardised to take into account different sizes and compositions of households and are standardised in relation to a two adult household with no children.

Average incomes by decile groups of ALL households—United Kingdom, 2004-05

Average per household (£ per year)

Decile groups of all households ranked by equivalised disposable income											
	Bottom	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*	*All households*
Gross income[1]	8,376	12,995	15,608	19,210	24,206	28,491	33,262	41,263	51,070	84,357	31,884
Disposable income[2]	7,550	11,761	13,754	16,527	20,160	23,229	26,524	32,187	38,875	63,036	25,360

[1] Gross income, includes income from wages/salaries, self-employment income, investment income, occupational pensions, and state benefits.
[2] Disposable income is income available after the deduction of income tax, employees' national insurance contributions and council tax.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate how much would be raised if the upper income limit on national insurance contributions were to be abolished. [133561]

Ed Balls: The yield from removing the upper earnings limit for employees Class 1 national insurance contributions is around £8,880 million for 2007-08. This estimate includes the yield from the consequent increase in the upper profit limit for Class 4 contributions paid by the self-employed, and the cost of the increase in employee and employer rebates for contracting out of state second pension.

This excludes any estimate of behavioural effects which could be significant given the scale of the change.

The estimate is consistent with Budget 2007 assumptions and assumes that the NHS allocation contribution rates are unchanged.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from which Government Departments' budgets the additional £5 billion to be provided by central Government towards the cost of the Olympics will be provided. [133714]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 410W, to his earlier question.

Pensions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of interest rates on pension funds over the last 30 years; [133722]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of fluctuations in the stock market on pensions over the last 30 years; [133723]

(3) what assessment he has made of the impact of pensions mis-selling on current pensions; [133724]

(4) what assessment he has made of the economic impact of interest rates on pension funds over the last 30 years; [133725]

(5) what estimate he has made of the total reduction in pension contributions due to pension holidays in each of the last 30 years. [133726]

Ed Balls: Key factors that have affected pensions and pension funds in recent years were fully set out by the Chancellor in the debate in the House on occupational pensions on 17 April. The Government are not aware of any systematic and quantified assessment of the relative impact of different factors on pension schemes over the last 30 years. The Annex to Chapter 3 of the Pensions Commission's First Report provides an analysis of the main long-term trends affecting private sector final salary pensions over the last 30 years. The Purple Book published by the Pensions Regulator and the Pension Protection Fund also provides recent and historical data on Defined Benefit pension schemes.

Pensions Dividend Tax Credit

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes there were to the pensions dividend tax credit between 1979 and 1997. [133727]

Ed Balls: The rate of the payable tax credit on dividends for all tax exempt shareholders was lowered in the following years:

1979: from 33 per cent. to 30 per cent.

1986: from 30 per cent. to 29 per cent.

1987: from 29 per cent. to 27 per cent.

1988: from 27 per cent. to 25 per cent.

1993: from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent.

Repossession Orders

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mortgage housing repossessions were recorded in each of the last 30 financial years. [133810]

Ed Balls: The Council of Mortgage Lenders publishes calendar year data showing the level of repossessions of mortgaged properties, which is available at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/statistics

Tax Allowances

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the total cost of the ending of means testing of personal allowances for people aged between 65 and 74 years. [133762]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 26 April 2007]*: The cost of removing the tapering of the personal allowance for 2007-08 is estimated at £360 million for people aged between 65 and 74 years and £220 million for those aged 75 or over.

This estimate is based on the 2004-05 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward in line with Budget 2007 assumptions.

The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response which could be significant given the scale of the change.

Taxation: Overpayments

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are taken to ensure that people who have made a tax overpayment are aware that they are entitled to reclaim it. [133602]

John Healey: There are three main systems by which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) collect income tax from individuals: self-assessment, Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and the tax deduction scheme for interest paid by banks and building societies. Overpayment of tax may occur in any of these systems.

Self-assessment

The self-assessment tax return (supported by the guidance notes), the self-assessment Statement of Account and the Internet "View Liabilities and Payments" Service all offer people the opportunity to claim repayment of tax overpaid.

PAYE

When HMRC carry out an "Initial Assessing Review" for a PAYE customer, if an overpayment of tax has occurred and all the necessary information is available, HMRC will make an immediate repayment. Failing this, they will write to the customer to tell the customer that there appears to be an overpayment of tax and ask for the further information required to calculate the refund due.

In addition to this, the Form P45(2) issued by an employer to an employee on cessation of employment contains advice on claiming any repayment of tax.

The HMRC website includes sections on "I want to claim a tax repayment" and a "Student Tax Checker" which enables customers to see whether they have paid too much tax based on actual income received.

Tax deducted from bank and building society interest

A customer who has tax deducted from their savings income may be a non-taxpayer. A claim for repayment can be made by completing form R40 "Claim for Repayment". Every year HMRC send these forms to customers who made such claims in the previous year. Help is also readily available by phoning the "Taxback" helpline or visiting the "Taxback" pages of the HMRC website.

Taxation: Pensions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the net effect on contributions to the Exchequer would be if the pensions contributions by all individuals qualified for tax relief as basic income tax rate only. [133556]

Ed Balls: Latest detailed estimates of the annual cost of tax relief on approved pension schemes are available in Table 7.9 on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/menu.htm

If relief on individual contributions were constrained to the basic rate of tax, this amount of relief would fall by one quarter.

Tobin Tax

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate how much would be raised if a Tobin tax of *(a)* 0.05 per cent. and *(b)* 0.1 per cent. was levied on all transactions on the UK stock market. [133558]

John Healey: No such estimates are available.

Unemployment: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals were classed as economically inactive in each London borough for each of the last 10 years. [133787]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 27 April 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of individuals classed as economically inactive in each London borough for each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (133787)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of inactivity for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of economically inactive persons of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59) resident in the London boroughs, from the annual local area LFS for the 12-month periods ending in February from 1997 to 2004 and from the APS for the 12-month periods ending in March from 2005 to 2006. Table 2 shows these numbers expressed as a percentage of the resident working-age population.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.

Table 1: Economically inactive persons of working age[1]: London boroughs

Thousand

	12 months ending: February								*March*	
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Barking and Dagenham	23	22	25	24	32	28	28	29	31	31
Barnet	45	43	39	42	43	42	42	53	54	49
Bexley	25	25	28	22	28	28	26	26	24	24
Brent	40	42	38	45	51	45	53	51	50	44
Bromley	32	35	34	38	30	34	41	37	30	30
Camden	31	35	32	31	37	39	38	34	43	45
City of London	[2]—	2	1	[2]—	1	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Croydon	41	41	40	37	42	41	40	43	40	44
Ealing	52	44	46	49	59	54	53	48	49	54
Enfield	33	30	34	41	44	45	45	42	51	43
Greenwich	34	35	31	30	29	34	40	38	39	35

Table 1: Economically inactive persons of working age[1]: London boroughs

Thousand

	12 months ending February								March	
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Hackney	41	31	41	41	45	46	45	48	52	57
Hammersmith and Fulham	26	29	28	29	28	26	29	26	30	30
Haringey	41	38	42	41	49	50	45	57	46	41
Harrow	25	24	24	24	23	31	32	32	29	32
Havering	24	25	22	24	24	26	23	22	28	25
Hillingdon	24	24	28	26	33	31	30	36	31	32
Hounslow	29	30	28	31	29	30	35	33	34	27
Islington	29	29	32	28	40	35	38	35	35	41
Kensington and Chelsea	25	26	27	29	27	33	35	31	39	33
Kingston upon -Thames	13	16	18	21	20	18	18	19	22	21
Lambeth	34	38	41	45	40	45	44	48	45	54
Lewisham	31	34	33	35	37	43	38	39	36	43
Merton	20	20	17	21	26	24	20	20	27	30
Newham	48	45	49	54	62	61	63	65	62	55
Redbridge	33	31	34	37	40	35	36	38	37	45
Richmond-upon-Thames	22	21	23	21	14	19	17	26	29	25
Southwark	35	41	43	41	48	45	47	42	44	50
Sutton	17	16	15	16	14	15	19	23	20	20
Tower Hamlets	38	44	47	42	49	48	52	48	51	52
Waltham Forest	37	39	39	30	34	37	38	41	41	36
Wandsworth	33	41	39	32	31	29	36	35	40	43
Westminster, City of	35	32	33	32	35	38	41	42	41	42

Table 2: Economic inactivity rates for persons of working age[1]: London boroughs

Percentage

	12 months ending February								March	
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Barking and Dagenham	23	24	27	26	33	28	28	29	31	32
Barnet	24	22	20	21	22	21	21	25	25	23
Bexley	18	19	21	17	21	21	20	20	18	18
Brent	25	26	23	26	30	26	30	29	29	25
Bromley	18	18	19	21	17	19	23	20	17	17
Camden	26	30	27	26	28	28	27	24	31	32
City of London	[2]	44	28	[2]	28	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	15
Croydon	20	20	19	19	21	20	19	20	19	20
Ealing	28	25	26	26	30	27	26	23	24	26
Enfield	21	19	21	24	26	26	26	24	29	24
Greenwich	27	27	24	23	22	25	29	28	28	25
Hackney	36	28	34	31	35	34	33	35	37	40
Hammersmith and Fulham	24	26	26	28	25	22	24	21	24	24
Haringey	30	28	31	29	34	34	30	38	31	28
Harrow	21	19	19	19	18	24	24	23	21	23
Havering	19	19	15	17	18	19	17	16	21	19
Hillingdon	16	16	19	17	22	20	20	23	20	20
Hounslow	23	22	21	23	21	22	25	23	24	19
Islington	26	26	28	25	33	29	31	29	29	33
Kensington and Chelsea	27	29	28	30	26	30	31	27	33	28
Kingston upon -Thames	15	19	20	22	21	19	18	19	22	21
Lambeth	19	21	23	26	22	24	24	27	25	31
Lewisham	21	22	21	22	23	26	23	24	22	25
Merton	18	18	15	17	22	19	16	16	21	23
Newham	34	32	33	36	41	39	40	42	39	35
Redbridge	23	21	24	25	27	23	24	25	24	29
Richmond-upon-Thames	19	20	23	21	13	17	15	23	24	21
Southwark	25	27	28	25	30	27	28	26	27	31
Sutton	16	15	14	14	12	13	17	20	17	17

Table 2: Economic inactivity rates for persons of working age[1]: London boroughs

Percentage

	12 months ending February							*March*	
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Tower Hamlets	35	39	40	33	39	37	39	37	38	38
Waltham Forest	26	28	29	22	24	26	27	30	30	26
Wandsworth	19	24	23	18	17	16	20	19	21	23
Westminster, City of	31	28	30	28	29	30	31	31	30	30

[1] Males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.
[2] Sample size too small to provide estimates.

Notes:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.

Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey, Annual Population Survey

VAT

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with UK retailers concerning Low Value Consignment relief. [133740]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to reform Low Value Consignment relief. [133741]

John Healey: The position in respect of Low Value Consignment relief is set out in para 5.142 of the FSBR, published on 21 March 2007.

WALES

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134819]

Mr. Hain: None.

Farms: Contamination

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many farms, representing what total surface area, still have restrictions on *(a)* grazing and *(b)* other agricultural uses arising from the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl reactor incident in 1986. [134365]

Mr. Hain: There are currently 359 holdings in Wales within the restricted area with 180,000 sheep under restriction arising from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986.

There are no details of the total land area under restriction because not all the land attributed to a holding is necessarily under restriction. The areas affected are mountain grazings, the farm low land is generally free from restrictions.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 30 April 2007

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bolivia

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when a Minister from his Department last visited Bolivia. [134145]

Mr. Thomas: The former Secretary of State for International Development, the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood (Clare Short) visited Bolivia in August 1999.

Colombia: Refugees

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution the UK Government has made to the UN High Commission for Refugees in response to its appeal for funds in connection with Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [134594]

Mr. Thomas: The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Global Appeal 2007 is currently under review by donors. In 2006, the UK Government provided £27,536,000 to the UNHCR global appeal. DFID's contribution was £25,863,000. There were also contributions from the Home Office (£1,214,000) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (£459,000). DFID's contribution was split into £15,920,000 un-earmarked and £9,943,000 earmarked. It is not possible to say how much of the contributions went specifically to Colombia.

DFID contributes to the European Commission's humanitarian assistance programme for victims of internal conflict in Colombia through its 18 per cent. contribution to the EC. The EC will be providing €12 million humanitarian aid in 2007, to support people who are displaced as a result of the longstanding internal conflict in Colombia. The funds will be distributed by humanitarian NGOs and the UNHCR.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134059]

Mr. Thomas: All of the A4 size photocopying paper used in the Department for International Development in the last three years was of 100 per cent. recycled content. In 2004-05 and until approximately midway into 2005-06 a very small proportion (less than 0.5 per cent. of our total paper) of virgin A3 size paper was used. In the later part of 2005-06 that too became 100 per cent. recycled.

DFID does not hold the data regarding paper for printed publications centrally, and due to disproportionate cost we cannot supply this information. However, DFID routinely requires that the designers and printers under contract to produce DFID publications source paper that has a minimum of 75 per cent. recycled content.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of establishing his Department. [134184]

Hilary Benn: When established, the Department for International Development took over the functions, staff and premises of the Overseas Development Administration. There was no cost to public funds associated with this transfer of functions. To establish detailed figures for other set up costs such as changes in stationery and additional ministerial offices would involve disproportionate costs but these would not have been significant. The running costs outturn for DFID in 1997-98 was 2.4 per cent. lower than the outturn for 1996-97.

Nigeria: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what additional aid he plans to make available for the Independent Electoral Commission in Nigeria to deal with the additional workload since the election in that country. [134523]

Hilary Benn: It is too early to make any significant decision on how DFID's programme in Nigeria should be adjusted in response to the elections. Due to the problems encountered, additional elections were being held in many parts of the country on 28 April. Currently all sides are reflecting upon the electoral process and the results as these are returned.

However, we are also reviewing our support for the electoral process, including our support to Independent Nigeria Electoral Commission (INEC). DFID provided £2.5 million of support to a Joint Donor Basket Fund managed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The other donors are the European Union and Canadian CIDA. The majority of the joint funding was notionally allocated to INEC. But INEC has consistently turned down donor offers of technical support, so spending has been lower than anticipated.

Given the events of the last three weeks, the UNDP are now doing a stock-take on our joint support to INEC. We are expecting proposals early this week on how we can best wrap-up our existing programme of support for INEC. After this, there will also be a review of lessons and a priority for the coming few months will be to reach a consensus in Nigeria on how best, INEC can be supported in future. In addition, we will be undertaking joint analysis on the wider aspects of political governance which need to be addressed in order for the 2011 elections to be an improvement on those of 2007.

Palestinians: Sanctions

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of banking sanctions on conditions of life in the Palestinian territories; and if he will make a statement. [134526]

Hilary Benn: Since Hamas formed a Palestinian Government in March 2006, international banks dealing with the Palestinian Authority (PA) have risked litigation under US anti-terrorism laws. One result of this has been that the PA's single treasury account has been frozen. This has undermined important progress made over recent years to improve public financial accountability and control.

Although this situation has made it harder to transfer money to the PA, the PA has been able to continue spending the limited funds it has available. DFID and other donors have also continued and increased aid to help meet the basic needs of Palestinians through other channels. For example, European Union (community and member states) aid is estimated to have increased by 27 per cent. in 2007, compared with 2006. This has partially offset the impact on Palestinian livelihoods of Israel's decision to withhold clearance revenues due to the PA.

DFID is providing technical assistance to the Palestinian Monetary Authority to help ensure that Palestinian banks are able to meet international standards for tackling terrorist financing and money laundering.

Sudan: Dams

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has made to the government of Sudan on the issue of the Hamdab Dam and what account is taken of its impact on the local Amri people. [134243]

Hilary Benn: The UK is concerned by the Government of Sudan's plans to forcibly relocate local communities in the River Nile State by the end of 2007 because of the Hamdab Dam project. Strong protests from local tribes led to an agreement on 1 June 2006, for the state Government and local people to work together to resolve the issue. But the subsequent displacement of 2,200 families without prior warning suggests the Government are reneging on this commitment.

British embassy officials in Khartoum have met representatives of the local people affected by the project. The UN Mission in Sudan's (UNMIS) Human Rights Unit, on behalf of the international community, is following the situation closely. We raised the plight of those affected by the Hamdab Dam project at a meeting of UNMIS and international partners on 26 April.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian aid he expects to be provided to the Darfur region of Sudan and eastern Chad in the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [134143]

Hilary Benn: Total donor intentions are difficult to estimate. In 2006, the UN's humanitarian appeal for Darfur was 79 per cent. funded, it is expected that similar levels will be forthcoming this year. DFID's contribution is largely through the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), to which we contributed £40 million in 2007, accounting for approximately 60 per cent. of the total. This supports critical needs throughout Sudan. DFID also expect to spend around £15 million over the next year in Darfur through direct grants to humanitarian non-governmental organisations and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In the case of Chad, the UN's current annual appeal of £89 million is 40 per cent. funded. The UN is about to supplement this with an additional appeal to support the recent increase in internal displacement. DFID is providing £5 million to humanitarian operations in Chad this year, a rise of £1 million from last year.

We will continue to monitor overall funding for Darfur and Chad and support the UN in lobbying other donors to make substantial and timely contributions.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by the House was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134041]

Nick Harvey: Sufficient data to provide the information in the form requested are not available. The House seeks to use the best environmental option for the paper it uses, compatible with the needs of each of its areas of business. I will write to the hon. Member about the specifications of paper provided to Members and used for photocopying and printed publications.

TREASURY

Average Earnings

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average hourly pay was of the *(a)* (i) lowest and (ii) highest decile, *(b)* (i) lowest and (ii) highest quartile and *(c)* highest duo-decile of working age people in employment in each year since 1997. [135064]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 30 April 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average hourly pay was of the (a) (i) lowest and (ii) highest decile, (b) (i) lowest and (ii) highest quartile and (c) highest duo-decile of working age people in employment in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (135064)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. This is the standard definition used for ASHE. The ASHE does not collect information on the self employed and people who do unpaid work.

I attach a table showing the 10th, 25th, 75th, 90th and 95th percentile of Gross Hourly Pay, corresponding to the lowest decile, lowest quartile, highest quartile, highest decile, and highest duo-decile respectively, for all employees, for the years 1997-2006.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a one per cent sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Gross hourly earnings for all employee[1] Jobs—UK

£

	Percentile				
	10th	25th	75th	90th	95th
1997	3.81	4.96	10.64	15.29	18.98
1998	4.00	5.13	11.12	15.96	19.98
1999	4.18	5.36	11.55	16.69	20.96
2000	4.36	5.56	12.03	17.27	21.81
2001	4.53	5.79	12.62	18.27	23.51
2002	4.78	6.00	13.18	19.21	24.72
2003	5.01	6.30	13.68	19.93	25.66
2004 excl.	5.21	6.56	14.28	20.75	26.67
2004 inc.[2]	5.18	6.50	14.15	20.49	26.15
2005	5.36	6.71	14.71	21.42	27.38
2006	5.57	6.99	15.33	22.29	28.45

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

[2] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the chief executive of the Tax Credit Office to reply to the hon. Member for Totnes' letters of *(a)* 11 December 2006 and *(b)* 22 February 2007 on the case of Mr. and Mrs. Langford of Queen Elizabeth Drive, Paignton. [134387]

Mr. Timms: HMRC have sent a reply to the hon. Member and have apologised to him for the delay in replying.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 22 March 2007 (PO Ref: 1/48650/2007). [134607]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* I hope to be in a position to do so very shortly.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what effect he expects the recent revisions of the Olympics budget to have on plans for Crossrail. [133713]

Mr. Timms: Crossrail funding and financing issues will be considered further in the context of Sir Michael Lyons' recommendations and wider spending pressures and priorities. However, the affordability challenge represented by the scheme remains significant.

Revenue and Customs: Publicity

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many click throughs from HM Revenue and Customs online advertisements to the HM Revenue and Customs website have been recorded as part of the online aspect of the "Tax doesn't have to be taxing" campaign since its launch. [133323]

John Healey: As at end of March 2007 1,151,339 click throughs from HM Revenue and Customs online advertisements to the HM Revenue and Customs website have been recorded as part of the online aspect of the 'Tax doesn't have to be taxing' campaign.

Taxation: Members

Mr. Heath: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Members of the House of Lords and *(c)* Members of the European Parliament elected for United Kingdom constituencies are non-resident in the UK for tax purposes. [133346]

Ed Balls: No Members of Parliament or Members of the European Parliament are non-resident in the UK for tax purposes. This information is available because the tax affairs of Members of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament are dealt with centrally by HMRC. No such information is collected for Members of the House of Lords whose tax affairs are not dealt with centrally but by local tax offices.

Taxation: Overseas Residence

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people claimed non-domicile tax status in the UK in each of the last five years for which records are available; [133685]

(2) what estimate he has made of the tax forgone by the UK as a consequence of use of the remittance basis by those not domiciled in the UK; [133686]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average length of residence in the UK of those claiming non-domicile status; [133687]

(4) what methodology is used to estimate the economic benefits to the UK from the retention of the domicile laws on taxation; [133688]

(5) what estimates he has made of the economic benefits to the UK from the retention of the domicile laws on taxation; [133689]

(6) what investigations have been carried out looking into non-domicile status in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [133673]

(7) how many people qualified for non-domicile tax treatment in the UK in each of the last five years for which records are available. [133674]

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect

on the economy of non-domiciled residence tax status; and if he will make a statement. [133972]

Ed Balls: No overall figure for the number of individuals with non-domicile tax status is available.

Estimates of the tax foregone in the UK as a consequence of the use of the remittance basis by those not domiciled in the UK are not routinely made. Information is not held on overseas income and gains that do not give rise to a tax liability in the UK.

Information on the average length of residence is not routinely collected. A small sample survey in 2004 suggested that the majority of non-domiciled individuals who had already left the UK spent no more than five years here.

No estimates have been made of the economic benefits to the UK from the retention of the domicile laws on taxation.

HMRC carry out investigations into non-domiciled status where this may be relevant to a taxpayer's UK tax liability. Such investigations may occur to verify information given to HMRC by individuals completing self-assessment tax returns or making other claims for non-domicile status; as a result of third-party disclosure; or because of the outcome of other HMRC enquiries. No information is available on the number of investigations undertaken.

Information on how many individuals qualify for non-domicile tax treatment in the UK is not available. Some 112,000 individuals indicated non-domicile tax status through their SA returns in 2004-05.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people *(a)* employed by and *(b)* contracted to supply services to HM Treasury claim non-domicile tax treatment. [134096]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs is statutorily debarred from disclosing to third parties information relating to the tax affairs of individuals or public and private sector bodies. Treasury Ministers do not have access to such information.

Taxation: Polygamy

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people married abroad polygamously and settled in the UK transferred property free of *(a)* inheritance tax and *(b)* capital gains tax to their spouses in each year for which figures are available. [134938]

Ed Balls: No information is available on such transfers.

Written Questions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will answer question 131290, tabled by the right hon. Member for Birkenhead on 28 March 2007, on the abolition of the 10p tax rate. [135054]

Ed Balls: The Treasury hopes to be in a position to answer the right hon. Gentleman's question shortly.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the investment returns were for the Arts Council of England from National Lottery funding in August 2006; and what they were in the latest period for which figures are available; [134373]

(2) how much funding the Arts Council of England received from the National Lottery in August 2006; and how much it received in the latest period for which figures are available. [134374]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* The following table shows the Arts Council England's income from the National Lottery Distribution Fund in August 2006, in March 2007 and in the entire financial year 2006-07.

Period	*Operator -related income to nearest £1,000*	*Investment income to nearest £1,000*	*Total to nearest £1,000*
August 2006	13,794,000	479,000	14,273,000
March 2007	12,566,000	589,000	13,154,000
Financial year 2006-07	142,861,000	6,396,000	149,257,000

Broadcasting Programmes: Children

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take steps to improve the provision of children's programming by public service broadcasters. [134466]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* In advance of their next scheduled PSB Review, Ofcom have announced they are looking at the future of children's TV programming in the UK. We await the outcome of that review with interest.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the sustainability of the market for the commissioning of quality children's television programmes in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [134481]

Mr. Woodward: The Government recognise that the changing broadcasting environment presents challenges to the ability of commercial public service broadcasters to sustain their programming for children.

We welcome Ofcom's review into children's television, due to be published this autumn, which will include the current state of the children's TV market and the sources of future funding for children's programming.

Broadcasting Programmes: Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government plan to take in response to the recent conclusions of Ofcom on violence in television soap operas. [134575]

Mr. Woodward: Parliament has charged the independent regulator, Ofcom, with maintaining broadcasting standards, notably to protect children and to protect the general public from harmful and offensive material. Ofcom sets out the rules and guidance with which broadcasters must comply. Within this framework, it is the broadcasters' job to make judgments about what individual programmes should contain and the time at which they are broadcast. It is a long-standing principle that the Government do not interfere in programming matters. That applies to both scheduling and content. Where there are deliberate, serious or repeated breaches of Ofcom's rules, the regulator may impose statutory sanctions against the broadcaster.

Cultural Heritage: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to ensure the preservation of Essex's cultural heritage; and if she will make a statement. [134578]

Mr. Lammy: English Heritage, the Government's statutory adviser on heritage matters, is taking a number of steps to ensure the preservation of Essex's cultural heritage. These include contributing funding towards buildings repairs—such as £400,000 towards repairs to St. Osyth's Priory—and securing the future of a number of "buildings at risk", enabling 44 buildings to be removed from their Register. English Heritage is in discussion with agencies involved in the Thames Gateway expansion, the Stansted airport proposed expansion and proposed wind farm off Maldon. English Heritage is responsible for the management of 11 historic sites in Essex, the largest being Audley End House. English Heritage is a member of the East of England Regional Cultural Consortium and chairs the East of England Heritage Environment Forum.

Since 1994 the Heritage Lottery Fund has made close to 500 awards to the county, totalling some £33.5 million to preserve cultural heritage.

Departments: Bullying

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in her Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134833]

Mr. Lammy: There have been no complaints of bullying investigated in the Department in the last 12 months.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by her Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134057]

Mr. Lammy: The photocopying paper used by the Department is made from 100 per cent. recycled paper.

All publications have been produced on recycled stock in the last three years.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much her Department spent assisting older and disabled people with the switch to digital television in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; how much it has spent in 2007; and how much it plans to spend in (i) 2008, (ii) 2009 and (iii) 2010. [134583]

Mr. Woodward: To the present date, a total of £211,000 has been spent on helping vulnerable groups with switchover, this being solely for the Bolton Digital Television Trial in 2005-06. This funding was equally split with the BBC.

All future assistance, which is to be delivered by the Digital Switchover Help Scheme (DSHS), will be provided by the BBC and paid for through the licence fee. We estimate the cost of the scheme at £600 million and this will include assistance provided for the Whitehaven project.

National Lottery: Charities

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the eligibility criteria are for registered charitable organisations to receive Lottery funding; and which charitable institutions are ineligible. [134492]

Mr. Caborn: Almost any organisation in the United Kingdom, including registered charities, can apply for lottery funding for projects which are not intended primarily for private gain and for which funds would be unlikely to be made available by Government or the devolved administrations.

Under the National Lottery Act 2006, "charitable expenditure", in relation to expenditure under the charitable, health, education and environment good causes, means expenditure for a charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purpose. Such expenditure is not restricted to registered charities, which are able to benefit from all the lottery good causes.

However, each of the lottery distributing bodies publishes specific eligibility criteria for each of its funding programmes, and applicant organisations must comply with these.

Office of Communications

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how she plans the Ofcom Public Service Publisher service to be funded. [134465]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 27 April 2007]*: Ofcom published its discussion document into the potential role of the Public Service Publisher (PSP) in January and asked for comments by the end of March. At present they are reviewing those responses with a view to publishing a summary later in 2007.

While we believe the proposal for the PSP has stimulated a healthy debate it remains too early to make a wider Government response to the PSP proposal.

Olympic Games: Finance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the planned World Class Pathway funding for the Beijing Cycle was spent in the 2006-07 financial year, broken down by Olympic sport. [134070]

Mr. Caborn: Between 2006 and 2009, a total of £250.2 million has been budgeted to be invested in the World Class Performance Pathway (WCPP) for Olympic and Paralympic sport, of which a total of £72.5 million was ring fenced to be spent in 2006-07.

The total amount actually invested in Olympic sports for 2006-07 is primarily dependent on the extent to which their World Class Pathway programmes and governance are fit for purpose to receive public funding. The final figures will be available once UK Sport has signed off the audited 2006-07 year-end accounts in June.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how she expects Essex to participate in the Cultural Olympiad initiative. [134577]

Mr. Lammy: The Cultural Olympiad has been designed in such a way that creative and cultural organisations at all levels, from the largest national bodies to the smallest community groups, can participate. We are working with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to deliver this.

The Nations and Regions are developing plans to maximise the benefit of the London Games to all parts of the UK. In addition, I have recently announced that a network of Regional Creative Programmers in eight of the English Regions is to be established. Their role will contribute to the delivery of cultural events in all the regions in the run-up to and during the 2012 Games.

The Greater London Authority is also developing proposals on how to co-ordinate and deliver a pan-London cultural programme.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures are being taken by her Department to ensure that the 2012 Olympic Games is a drug-free event. [134586]

Mr. Caborn: The Department sponsors UK Sport, the UK's national anti-doping organisation, which is responsible for delivering the UK's national anti-doping programme. In the run-up to the 2012 Games, UK Sport will continue to deliver its anti-doping programme for all Olympic and Paralympic sports.

The chief medical officer at the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG), who was appointed in February, is responsible for the anti-doping programme during the 2012 Games, under delegation from the International Olympic Committee.

In light of this appointment, LOCOG has begun work on arrangements for the testing programme, and will continue to do so in collaboration with UK Sport and DCMS.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether Olympic regional creative programmers will be assigned to *(a)* London, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland. [134588]

Mr. Lammy: We are planning cultural events in the run-up to and during the 2012 Games to span the UK. The "Nations and Regions Group" of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games is developing plans to maximise the benefits of and engagement in the 2012 Games for their respective nations and regions. Participation in the Cultural Olympiad will be included within these plans.

The network of Creative Programmers being established will cover the eight English regions outside London. Colleagues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are considering what arrangements would fit their plans to participate in the cultural programme. The Greater London Authority is also developing proposals on how to co-ordinate and deliver a pan-London cultural programme.

Public Libraries: Kent

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with Kent county council on redundancies in its library service. [134468]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* None. Staffing of libraries and library authorities is a matter for local authorities to decide, after considering available resources and local priorities, providing it does not affect the authority's ability to deliver a "comprehensive and efficient" library service to the public as required under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964.

Public Service Broadcasting

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she plans to bring forward the review of public sector broadcasting in view of the effect of Web 2.0. [134467]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* Under the Communications Act 2003 Ofcom has the responsibility of periodically reviewing public service television broadcasting. The timing of such reviews is a matter for Ofcom, subject to a requirement that they take place at least once every five years. I understand that Ofcom intends to begin the next review in 2008.

For their part, the Government intend to conduct a review of the case for distributing public funding more widely beyond the BBC before the end of the current licence fee settlement.

Public Service Broadcasting: Children

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the regulatory requirements are for each public service broadcaster in relation to children's television; and if she will make a statement. [134169]

Mr. Woodward: Section 264 of the Communications Act 2003 requires Ofcom to regularly review and report on the extent to which public service broadcasters fulfil the purposes of public service television, including the provision (when the services are taken together) of a "suitable quantity and range of high quality and original programmes for children and young people".

Public service broadcasters are required to consult Ofcom on proposals for significant changes in their statements of programme policy.

Television; Telephone Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints her Department has received in 2007 on premium-rate telephone competitions. [134582]

Mr. Woodward: To date the Department has received 21 queries regarding the operation of premium rate telephone competitions in 2007. However, complaints about premium rate telephone competitions are a matter for the independent regulators, Ofcom and ICSTIS.

PRIME MINISTER

Berlin Declaration

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister what representations he made to his European counterparts during consultations on the Berlin Declaration; if he will place in the Library a copy of such representations; and if he will make a statement. [134301]

The Prime Minister: I made no formal representations to EU counterparts on the Berlin Declaration. However the normal contacts took place at official level, and I discussed the declaration informally with Chancellor Merkel in the course of normal diplomatic contacts.

The document was written by the German presidency of the EU and presented to leaders shortly before the summit to mark the 50th anniversary of the EU on 25-26 March 2007.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Office was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134062]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) on 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1330W.

Policy Review

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister for what reason reference to Trident or its successor was not made in the policy review report "Building on Progress: Britain in the World" published on 17 April. [134205]

The Prime Minister: "Building on Progress: Britain in the World" draws on the conclusions and discussions of the Ministerial Working Group on Britain in the World, and seminars for junior Ministers conducted as part of the policy review process. It sets out a high-level overview of the broad UK approach to foreign policy since 1997, what the UK has achieved, and what the UK should seek to achieve in the decades to come. It does not aim to cover every issue in detail.

My statement of 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 21-24, set out in detail the Government's position on maintaining the UK's independent nuclear deterrent. The reasons for that decision were further explained in the White Paper "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994), published on the same day. The House voted in favour of the Government's decision on 14 March 2007.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arms Control

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the recommendations of the United Nations Panel of Experts on the strengthening of the current arms embargo set out in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1591; and what steps she has taken in response to the recommendations. [134945]

Mr. McCartney: We supported the report by the Panel of Experts and its recommendations at the UN Sanctions Committee. It has not yet been transmitted to the UN Security Council (UNSC) nor has it been made public.

At a meeting of the UNSC on 16 April chaired by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, she made the case for further sanctions to impose on the Government of Sudan and rebel movements if they fail to abide by their agreements. We are working on a draft UNSC Resolution with other Security Council members to extend the UN arms embargo to the whole of Sudan, in line with the EU arms embargo.

Departments: Oral Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to her Department for oral answer have been transferred to other departments since May 2005. [133796]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has incomplete records of transfers of oral questions prior to November 2005. Subject to this caveat, our researches show that since May 2005 the FCO has transferred two oral questions.

Saudi Arabia: European Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Saudi Arabia on the sale of Eurofighter aircraft, signed in December 2005. [132423]

Mr. Ingram: I have been asked to reply.

No. This document is confidential between the two Governments. I am withholding the information as it would, or would be likely to prejudice international relations and harm the interests of the United Kingdom.

Sudan

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her counterparts at the EU Council of Ministers on pressing the Government of Sudan *(a)* to accept and implement the full deployment of a strengthened international force with UN elements in Darfur and along the border with Chad, *(b)* to monitor the EU arms embargo to Sudan, *(c)* to help implement the Tripoli Agreement of February 2006 and *(d)* to extend the Sudan sanctions regime against key individuals. [133489]

Mr. McCartney: At the EU's General Affairs and External Relations Council on 23 April, which my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended, European Foreign Ministers:

> recalled that transition to a full African Union/UN hybrid force for Darfur was urgently required;
>
> underlined the urgency of deploying a UN operation in Eastern Chad and the North-East of the Central African Republic;
>
> called on both Sudan and Chad to refrain from further escalation and fully respect their commitments under the 2006 Tripoli Agreement; and
>
> reiterated their readiness to consider further measures against any party which obstructs implementation of the peace agreements for Darfur.

The meeting did not address the EU arms embargo for Sudan, nor are there any plans to amend it.

Sudan: Arms Trade

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the evidence presented to the UN Security Council of the transportation of arms and heavy weaponry into Darfur; and what reports on the matter she has received from the British Ambassador to the United Nations. [133877]

Mr. McCartney: We supported the report by the Panel of Experts and its recommendations at the UN Sanctions Committee. It has not yet been transmitted to the UN Security Council nor has it been made public. Our Ambassador to the UN, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, reports developments regularly to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary. We continue to discuss the case for further sanctions in the UN.

Sudan: International Assistance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the impact on humanitarian operations of a no-fly zone over Darfur. [133582]

Mr. McCartney: The situation in Darfur is totally unacceptable. We are pressing our international partners at the UN Security Council (UNSC) to impose further measures on those responsible for the humanitarian crisis through their violations of UNSC Resolutions. Those measures include targeted sanctions against individuals engaged in violence or responsible for authorising it, an extension of the arms embargo to cover the whole of Sudan and measures to allow better monitoring of the illegal use of aircraft in Darfur. Further options remain under consideration, including a UNSC imposition of a no-fly zone. The humanitarian and security implications of such measures will be important considerations.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to tackle the harassment of humanitarian aid workers by the Sudanese authorities in the Darfur region; and if she will make a statement. [134140]

Mr. McCartney: The UK played a prominent role with the UN and other partners in securing a joint communiqué on 28 March between the UN and the Government of Sudan on humanitarian operations in Darfur. This committed the Government of Sudan to remove bureaucratic impediments and respect the neutrality and independence of agencies involved in the relief effort.

We are pressing the Government of Sudan to implement their commitments in full, including in a letter that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development sent with five other foreign and development Ministers to the Sudanese Foreign Minister, Lam Akol. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary repeated this point when she chaired an informal meeting of the UN Security Council on 16 April.

Sudan: Overseas Investment

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the business community to divest from Sudan on ethical and prudential grounds. [131835]

Mr. McCartney: The restrictive measures adopted by the United Kingdom against Sudan are targeted to apply maximum pressure on those who engage in violence or who are responsible for authorising it. They include a travel ban and assets freeze on individuals who impede the peace process or constitute a threat to stability in the Darfur region. Members of the European Union also decided to go further than the arms embargo imposed by the UN and extend the embargo to the whole of Sudan.

We are now pressing our international partners at the UN Security Council to impose further measures on those responsible for the humanitarian crisis through their violations of UN Security Council Resolutions. Those measures include targeted sanctions against individuals engaged in violence or responsible for authorising it, an asset freeze of commercial entities owned by sanctioned individuals, an extension of the arms embargo to cover the whole

of Sudan and measures to allow better monitoring of the illegal use of aircraft in Darfur.

We have not yet considered taking steps to encourage disinvestment from Sudan by British companies. However, if the situation in Darfur does not improve then we will have to consider taking further measures.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps her Department is taking to reach agreement on the proposed deployment of 20,000 UN peacekeeping troops in the Darfur region of Sudan; and if she will make a statement; [134141]

(2) what steps she is taking to facilitate Stage 3 of the agreement between the government of Sudan and the United Nations; and if she will make a statement. [134142]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary chaired an informal meeting of the UN Security Council on 16 April which welcomed the Sudanese Government's agreement to the UN's Heavy Support Package (the second stage of the agreement between the UN and the Government of Sudan). We are pressing them to agree to a joint African Union (AU)/UN Hybrid Force (the third stage). If the Sudanese Government and rebels do not co-operate, we will move to tougher sanctions.

We have seconded staff into the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations and are supporting their work through political lobbying. We are also a major contributor to the AU Mission in Sudan to keep it going until a joint AU/UN Hybrid Force can be deployed.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has *(a)* made to and *(b)* received from the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan on the implementation of the revenue sharing commitments made in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [134944]

Mr. McCartney: We continue to urge the joint North-South Government of National Unity to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in full. This was a key message for our intervention at the Sudan Consortium in Khartoum (19-21 March). The UK is also a member of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC). The AEC is tasked with monitoring CPA implementation and has four sub groups including one focused on wealth sharing. It is the main mechanism for dialogue between the international community and the CPA parties, and meets every month. We also engage both parties regularly on all elements of CPA implementation, including wealth sharing, through our bilateral representation in Khartoum and Juba.

On wealth sharing, I note that over US$1.8 billion of national oil revenue has been transferred to the Government of Southern Sudan. The Fiscal and Financial Monitoring and Allocation Commission has also begun work on determining the division of revenues between the different tiers of government. But much more needs to be done.

Turkey: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports she has received on persecution of the Christian minority in Turkey. [134218]

Mr. Hoon: Our Embassy in Ankara reports regularly on human rights, including freedom of religion. We also receive reports from the European Commission and other international organisations. We are aware of attacks affecting Christian minority groups, including the murder of Father Andrea Santoro, a Catholic priest, in February 2006 and the attack on 18 April on three Christians at a publishing house in Malatya.

The Turkish Government have strongly condemned this recent attack and we continue to urge them to keep up momentum in human rights reforms and encourage them to ensure implementation of EU standards is full and consistent. This of course includes freedom of religion.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Ugandan authorities on the declaration by President Museveni and his Security Minister Amama Mbabazi that the People's Redemption Army suspects will only be released if they apply for amnesty; and if she will make a statement. [134235]

Mr. McCartney: We continue to raise our wider concerns about the continued detention of the People's Redemption Army suspects with the Government of Uganda. Most recently, our High Commissioner in Kampala, with other EU Heads of Mission, made representations about this issue to Foreign Minister Kutesa on 13 April.

We will continue to make representations until the Government of Uganda abides by the constitution and respects the rule of law and independence of the judiciary.

Uganda: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department plans to take to help achieve a successful outcome to the peace talks between the Lord's Resistance Army and Ugandan Government representatives due to commence in the week beginning 30 April; and if she will make a statement. [134139]

Mr. McCartney: Following interventions by UN Special Envoy Joaquim Chissano, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Ugandan Government have agreed to resume peace talks in Juba on 26 April. This is encouraging, as is the extension of the cessation of hostilities agreement until the end of June.

We believe that the peace talks in Juba between the LRA and the Government of Uganda offer the best

chance for many years to achieve peace. Through the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool the UK has provided £250,000 to a UN fund set up to support the talks process and we have made it clear that we will consider any further requests for assistance very carefully.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departments: Databases

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how often databases within his Department are updated with records of the deaths of individuals; and if he will make a statement. [133003]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions updated its databases with dates of death approximately 575,000 times in 2006. We have processes in place where we receive death notifications from Registrars on a weekly basis in order to update records. However, many notifications are received from the next of kin in advance of the notification from the Registrars.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations his Department has received from data suppression industry experts regarding data suppression technologies; and if he will make a statement. [133004]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department's IT group has had no direct engagement with the data suppression industry regarding data suppression technologies.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on database suppression technology in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2006; and if he will make a statement. [133005]

Mr. Plaskitt: Nothing.

Departments: Planning

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are taken by his Department to include *(a)* older people and *(b)* people with disabilities in strategic planning, policy making and the delivery of the services they use. [132908]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government's strategy on older people and ageing, "Opportunity Age" was first published in March 2005. A series of consultation events at which the views and ideas of older people were sought has been invaluable in shaping that strategy.

DWP is piloting a "LinkAge Plus" programme, to test ways of building fully integrated services from health and benefits to leisure and learning. Eight pilots (led by local authorities) have been looking at ways of joining up government for older people. LinkAge Plus puts older people at the heart of the process in identifying effective models that meet their needs and aspirations and involves them in their design.

DWP also sponsors "Better Government for Older People", comprising approximately 200 voluntary elected members from older people's forums and groups across the UK, which works to reflect the views of older people in policy making.

DWP engages in a range of ongoing involvement activities with disabled people to ensure that their needs and views are reflected in both policy making and service delivery. These are outlined in our disability equality schemes published on 1 December 2006.

The Department sponsored the creation of Equality 2025, a new non-departmental public body providing a mechanism through which disabled people can have direct communication with central Government to influence, at an early stage, Government policies and service delivery that affect disabled people's lives.

We also consult with disabled people to obtain their feedback on new policy proposals or changes as part of our diversity impact assessment process. The findings from such consultation help to influence the final decision on those proposals or changes.

Disability Living Allowance: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals claimed disability living allowance in each London borough for each of the last five years. [133788]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance cases in payment in London boroughs as at each August, 2002-06

Thousand

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Camden	7.88	8.38	8.67	8.93	9.05
City of London	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.15
Hackney	9.19	9.49	9.75	9.94	10.04
Hammersmith and Fulham	5.5	5.85	6.11	6.3	6.44
Haringey	8.24	8.63	8.97	9.22	9.41
Islington	8.42	8.92	9.23	9.54	9.72
Kensington and Chelsea	3.79	4.08	4.25	4.42	4.54
Lambeth	8.52	8.96	9.99	10.05	10.39
Lewisham	8.95	9.51	10.05	10.5	10.91
Newham	11.73	12.17	12.34	12.51	12.63
Southwark	9.03	9.62	10.17	10.57	10.94
Tower Hamlets	8.32	8.72	8.99	9.23	9.26
Wandsworth	7.62	8.02	8.35	8.59	8.72
Westminster	6.24	6.83	7.27	7.48	7.75
Barking and Dagenham	8.42	8.82	8.95	8.93	8.84
Barnet	8.21	8.67	9.11	9.43	9.75
Bexley	6.31	6.75	7.14	7.5	7.79
Brent	8.51	9.07	9.5	9.7	9.87
Bromley	7.04	7.47	7.85	8.26	8.54
Croydon	9.12	9.93	10.53	11.11	11.47
Ealing	10.01	10.43	10.72	10.85	11.07
Enfield	8.62	9.11	9.54	9.86	10.13
Greenwich	9.06	9.59	10.2	10.59	10.73
Harrow	5.86	6.24	6.52	6.73	6.92
Havering	7.41	7.85	8.18	8.32	8.47
Hillingdon	7.25	7.6	7.91	8.12	8.32
Hounslow	7.27	7.67	8.01	8.27	8.46

Disability living allowance cases in payment in London boroughs as at each August, 2002-06

Thousand

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Kingston upon Thames	2.56	2.76	2.95	3.16	3.23
Merton	4.05	4.38	4.62	4.81	4.93
Redbridge	7.82	8.38	8.75	8.97	9.19
Richmond upon Thames	3.2	3.36	3.53	3.63	3.71
Sutton	4.55	4.83	5.16	5.43	5.57
Waltham Forest	8.37	8.76	9	9.19	9.33

Note:
Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10; some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Caseload figures are for the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Financial Assistance Scheme

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made towards securing the unclaimed assets of *(a)* Legal and General and *(b)* the Prudential for the financial assistance scheme. [132609]

James Purnell *[holding answer on 19 April 2007]*: On 28 March John Hutton announced a review to examine whether an alternative treatment of the residual funds in affected pension schemes and other non-public expenditure funding that have not already been allocated, could be used to increase levels of assistance above the 80 per cent. provided by the financial assistance scheme.

The review has started and is being led by Andrew Young, Directing Actuary at the Government Actuary's Department. The review team has already met some key stakeholders and will be contacting others shortly to tell them about the review and to invite their contributions. The review will provide an initial view in the summer and will then report by the end of the year.

Incapacity Benefit: Jobseeker's Allowance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he estimates will be spent on providing jobseeker's allowance incapacity benefits for 2007-08. [133563]

Mrs. McGuire: Planned expenditure in 2007-08, is £2,546 million for jobseeker's allowance, £6,428 million for incapacity benefit, and £887 million for severe disablement allowance.

Income Support: Young People

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will give consideration to the Social Security Advisory Committee's Sixth, Seventh and Eighth reports, with particular reference to the recommendation that the full rate of income support should be restored for young people under 25 years of age living away from home; and if he will make a statement. [132838]

Mr. Plaskitt: Since income support was introduced in 1988, a single person aged 18 to 24 has been paid at a lower rate than single people aged 25 and over. It would be a new initiative rather than a restoration, to pay single customers aged 18 to 24 at the same rate as single customers aged 25 and over. There are no plans to change these rules.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Gloucester

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in *(a)* Cheltenham and *(b)* all Gloucestershire constituencies in each month since March (i) without seasonal adjustment and (ii) seasonally adjusted. [133351]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table; March 2007 is the most recent available information. Seasonally adjusted figures are not available at constituency level.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants in Gloucestershire parliamentary constituencies, without seasonal adjustment: March 2007

Constituency	Claimants
Cheltenham	1,443
Cotswold	523
Forest of Dean	937
Gloucester	1,594
Stroud	731
Tewkesbury	684

Notes:
1. Figures are unrounded.
2. Figures include clerically held cases.
Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Maternity Benefits

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was underpaid in maternity allowances due to *(a)* customer error and *(b)* official error in each of the last five years; and how many people were affected. [133911]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

New Deal Schemes: Unemployment

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of the new deal on unemployment; and if he will make a statement. [133437]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: Since 1997, claimant unemployment has fallen by 708,000 and the number of people on lone parent benefits has fallen by 230,000. We are also spending £5 billion less on unemployment than we did in 1997.

The new deal, which has helped more than 1.7 million people into work since January 1998, has contributed to this success. It has helped reduce long-term claimant unemployment to close to its lowest for 30 years and to significantly reduce long-term youth claimant unemployment.

Pensions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the size of savings needed to buy an annuity for *(a)* a single worker and *(b)* a married couple to ensure a pension income that takes them above pension credit eligibility. [135061]

James Purnell: The size of annuity required to take an individual above pension credit eligibility depends on a wide range of factors. This includes the type of annuity an individual purchases, their entitlement to basic and addition state pension, and any additional needs they may have which affect pension credit entitlement. It also depends on whether their pension will take them above pension credit eligibility at the point of retirement or over their expected lifetime and whether their pension will take them above guarantee credit only or savings credit.

Under our proposed pension reforms someone retiring in 2053 with a good contribution record (through working or caring) could expect to receive around £135 per week from the state pension on retirement (in 2005-06 earnings terms). This is—for a single person—above the end point of pension credit. Couples with good contribution records will be substantially above the end point for pension credit.

Only those on the guarantee credit alone will face pound for pound withdrawal on private saving. Someone with around 25 years of working or caring retiring in 2050 will have accrued enough state pension to bring them above the guarantee credit only. Our analysis suggests that in 2050 around 6 per cent. of all pensioners will be eligible for guarantee credit only, and only around one in 50 pensioners will retire directly onto guarantee credit only. In addition, those with small amounts of savings will be able to take them as a lump sum under the trivial commutation rules.

Remploy: Business Interests

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what outside business interests directors at Remploy are permitted to pursue; and if he will make a statement. [133534]

Mrs. McGuire: Remploy's Executive Directors are permitted to pursue outside business interests, providing this does not impact on their role at Remploy and they have the permission of the Company. Non-Executive Directors are free to pursue outside business interests.

Remploy: Management

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many layers of management operate at the St. Helens Remploy site. [133537]

Mrs. McGuire: There are three layers of management at the St. Helens Remploy site. These are the General Manager, Operations Manager and Local Remploy Manager.

Incapacity Benefit

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of incapacity benefit claimants returned to work within *(a)* two weeks, *(b)* one month, *(c)* three months and *(d)* six months in the most recent period for which figures are available. [132831]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested.

The latest Destination of Benefit Leavers Survey (2004) suggests 50 per cent. of incapacity benefit leavers returned to work of 16 hours or more in that year, higher than reported in the previous year.

The Destination of Benefit Leavers Survey also provides the following breakdown for those leaving incapacity benefits for work, by benefit duration.

IB claim duration (weeks)	*Percentage returned to/starting work of 16 hours or more*
0-13	67
13-26	61
26-52	46
52+	40

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefits include, contributory incapacity benefit and income support for the sick and disabled.
2. 'Leavers' excludes those leaving as a result of death.

Source:
DWP Destination of Benefit Leavers 2004, Research Report [illegible] 241

Social Security Benefits

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the name of each benefit administered by his Department was in each year since 1996-97; what the level of each benefit was in each year; what the total amount paid in each benefit was in each year; what proportion of the total paid in each year was means-tested; and what the cost of administering each payment was in each year. [132839]

Mr. Plaskitt: The name of each benefit administered by the Department, and the total amount paid in each benefit in each year, since 1996-97, can be found in benefit expenditure tables on the Department for Work and Pensions website at the following address:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/medium_term.asp

The benefit names are listed in column A of table 3. Annual amounts paid in each benefit are listed from 1996-97 (column H) to 2007-08 (column S). All figures are outturn, apart from 2006-07, which are estimated outturn, and 2007-08, which are planned expenditure. The figures in table 3 are in cash terms and are rounded to the nearest million pounds. Expenditure at 2007-08 prices can be found in table 4, which is laid out exactly the same as table 3.

There are notes attached to each internet table, but the following particular points should be noted:

1. Responsibility for child benefit, guardians allowance and child's special allowance transferred to Inland Revenue, now HM Revenue and Customs, in April 2003.

2. Responsibility for war pensions transferred to the Veterans Agency in 2002-03.

The amount paid for each benefit in each year, in other words weekly benefit rates, are published each year in Statutory Instruments, as Social Security Benefits Up-rating Orders, which will be in the House of Commons Library and can be found on the Office for Public Sector Information website at the following addresses:

1996: SI 559 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1996/Uksi_19960599_en_1.htm
1997: SI 543 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1997/19970543.htm
1998: SI 470 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1998/19980470.htm
1999: SI 341 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1999/19990341.htm
2000: SI 440 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2000/20000440.htm
2001: SI 207 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2001/20010207.htm
2002: SI 668 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2002/20020668.htm
2003: SI 526 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2003/20030526.htm
2004: SI 552 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/20040552.htm
2005: SI 522 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20050522.htm
2006: SI 645 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2006/20060645.htm
2007: SI 688 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20070688.htm

Some other useful information about weekly benefit rates can be found on pages 50 to 74 of the 2005 edition of the Abstract of Statistics for Benefits, National Insurance Contributions, and Indices of Prices and Earnings, and on pages 101 to 191 of the 2004 edition of Work and Pensions Statistics (now discontinued) which can be located at the following internet addresses:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/abstract/Abstract2005.pdf

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/workandpens/2004/Individual_Benefit_Statistics.pdf

The proportion of the total paid in each year that was means-tested is shown in the following table:

	Means tested proportion of total benefit paid in each year (percentage)
1996-97	35.2
1997-98	33.9
1998-99	32.7
1999-2000	31.0
2000-01	29.3
2001-02	29.0
2002-03	29.3
2003-04	31.5
2004-05	31.5
2005-06	30.8
2006-07	31.1
2007-08	30.7

These percentages have been calculated using information in benefit expenditure table 3.

Full information about the cost of administering each payment in each year is not available.

From 1999-2000 the cost of administration is accounted for separately within the departmental expenditure limit (DEL) and the information requested on administration costs at benefit level is not available.

Information on administrative costs prior to the creation of DWP in 2001 is not comparable with administrative costs now due to considerable organisational change.

The available information, which is at benefit level, is in the following tables:

Cash (i)	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*£ million 1998-99*
Contributory benefits (paid from the National Insurance Fund)			
Retirement Pension	303	312	314
Widow's benefits	15	12	8
Unemployment Benefit (ii)	95	—	—
Incapacity Benefit	365	294	375
Jobseeker's Allowance (contribution based)	57	63	51
Non-contributory benefits (paid from voted money)			
War Pensions	42	39	32
Attendance Allowance	82	76	75
Disability Living Allowance	147	164	119
Severe Disablement Allowance	36	42	43
Income Support	—	717	581
excluding the unemployed—12 months	877	—	—
unemployed only—6 months	209	—	—
Jobseeker's Allowance (income based)	315	452	330
Child Benefit and One Parent Benefit	133	133	125
Family Credit	66	59	72
Social Fund	180	161	215
Invalid Care Allowance	30	27	34
Housing Benefit (iii)	312	328	350
Council Tax Benefit (iii)	182	180	175

2007-08 prices (i)	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*£ million 1998-99*
Contributory benefits (paid from the National Insurance Fund)			
Retirement Pension	396	396	389
Widow's benefits	20	15	10
Unemployment Benefit (ii)	124	—	—
Incapacity Benefit	477	373	464
Jobseeker's Allowance (contribution based)	74	80	63
Non-contributory benefits (paid from voted money)			
War Pensions	55	50	40
Attendance Allowance	107	97	93
Disability Living Allowance	192	208	147
Severe Disablement Allowance	47	53	53
Income Support	—	911	720
excluding the unemployed—12 months	1,146	—	—
unemployed only—6 months	273	—	—
Jobseeker's Allowance (income based)	412	574	409
Child Benefit and One Parent Benefit	174	169	155
Family Credit	86	75	89
Social Fund	235	204	266

2007-08 prices (1)	1996-97	1997-98	£ million 1998-99
Invalid Care Allowance	39	34	42
Housing Benefit (in)	408	417	433
Council Tax Benefit (in)	238	229	217

Notes:
1. Costs shown represent the total estimated costs to Government, Department of Social Security and other Departments of administering Social Security benefits.
2. Includes the cost of administering national insurance credits for clients who do not receive any social security benefit.
3. Costs quoted are local authority costs. Central Government costs are allocated to income support.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest million pounds.
5. The information has been taken from the 1998, 1999 and 2000 Department for Social Security departmental reports. The information requested is only available to 1998-99.
6. Figures have been converted to 2007-08 prices using GDP deflators issued by HM Treasury following the Budget report 2007.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of lone parents whose youngest child is over the age of 11 years are receiving *(a)* income support and *(b)* incapacity benefit; and how many and what proportion of each group are (i) carers for a disabled child and (ii) have a disability themselves. [130380]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

Lone parents with youngest child over 11: Great Britain

Claiming	Number	Proportion of all LPs with youngest child over 11 (Percentage)		Number	Proportion (Percentage)
Income support	108,950	19.1	Caring for a child with a disability	38,000	35.1
			Report disability themselves	65,000	60.2
Incapacity benefits	24,370	4.3	Caring for a child with a disability	[1]—	[1]—
			Report disability themselves	24,370	100

[1] Family and Children's Study sample size too small to identify.

Notes:
1. Reporting a disability and caring for a disabled child are not mutually exclusive categories—those who are both caring for a disabled child and report a disability themselves (21.6 per cent. of those with youngest child over 11 claiming income support) will appear in both categories.
2. The income support figures do not include any claimants on incapacity benefit. However, some of those included in the incapacity benefit may also receive income support.

Source:
DWP administrative data; Family and Children's study 2004, Labour Force Survey 2006 Q2.

Social Security Benefits: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed *(a)* income support, *(b)* job seeker's allowance, *(c)* housing benefit, *(d)* council tax benefit, *(e)* carer's allowance and *(f)* incapacity benefit in each London borough in each of the last five years. [132112]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information has been placed in the Library.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the total volume of deficit repair contributions made in each of the last five years. [132502]

James Purnell: The PPF collects information on deficit reduction payments made by schemes in order to reduce the amount of risk-based levy they are liable to pay. As the PPF has only been in operation since April 2005, information on such deficit reduction payments is not available for each of the last five years.

Such information as is available was published in the Purple Book (http://www.ppf.gov.uk/the_purple_book_ppf-tpr.pdf)

"Schemes in the sample had certified approximately £9.8bn of special contributions to reduce deficits by 7 April 2006. These contributions were certified to the Pension Protection Fund for the purpose of enabling a more up-to-date assessment to be made of the scheme funding position, with the extra contributions increasing the scheme assets and so reducing the risk-based levy."

Figures for deficit reduction payments in 2006-07 are not yet available.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Ministry of Defence Police

10. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the effect of the reduction in Ministry of Defence Police numbers on civilian police forces. [134282]

Mr. McNulty: I have had no representations from any police force about the impact of reductions in the number of MOD police officers.

It is a matter for discussion between the local force, police authority and the MOD police.

I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues at the Ministry of Defence and will discuss this issue at my next meeting.

Police: Street Patrols

11. **Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of time police officers spend patrolling the streets. [134283]

Mr. McNulty: 63 per cent. of officer time was spent on frontline activities in 2005-06. 14 per cent. of officer time was spent on patrol.

Other frontline activities not captured by the definition of "patrol" include arrests, dealing with incidents, gathering intelligence, responding to 999 calls, carrying out searches, dealing with informants, and interviewing suspects, victims and witnesses.

Licensing Laws

12. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the new licensing laws on reducing crime in *(a)* West Lancashire and *(b)* England and Wales. [134284]

Mr. Coaker: We are conducting a full evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on crime and disorder. This is ongoing and is due to be published towards the end of 2007. A separate monitoring exercise is looking at the impact of the Act on police recorded violent crime and criminal damage. Interim results from this exercise were published in July 2006. They show that there had been no change in the overall volume or timing of offences following the introduction of the Act. No separate arrangements have been made to monitor the impact of the Act in West Lancashire.

Police Training Days

13. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the cost of training days in the police work force owing to the introduction of new legislation. [134285]

Mr. McNulty: The consequences of any new legislation in terms of training is generally a matter for police forces to determine, although some police training is delivered nationally through what is now the National Policing Improvement Agency.

In terms of force costs, these will vary dependent upon the local impact of legislation, and each force making an assessment of its own training needs and requirements. It is also important to note that law based or legislative police training (except when an officer joins the police service) remains a relatively small proportion of their training needs.

Accordingly, policing costs for new training as a result of legislation will vary from police area to area. There are therefore no estimates of the cost of police training specifically as a consequence of new legislation.

Immigration: Public Services

15. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact of levels of immigration on public services in the last 12 months; and what forecast he has made of the likely effects in the next 12 months. [134287]

17. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the impact of levels of immigration on public services in the past 12 months and *(b)* the likely effect in the next 12 months. [134289]

Mr. Byrne: To date there has not been a formal system for assessing the impact of immigration on public services but individual Government Departments have mechanisms to receive information about overall pressures on such services. Last summer we conducted a cross-Government review of the impacts of migration. On 28 March we announced the establishment of a new forum to provide an opportunity for regular and organised dialogue with interested parties focusing on the impacts of migration. This will be chaired by Home Office and Local Government Ministers.

Rural Policing: North Yorkshire

19. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on rural policing in north Yorkshire. [134291]

Mr. McNulty: The Government are committed to ensuring that all communities have access to, and are served by a responsive, locally accountable and citizen focused police service. The deployment of that resource is an operational matter for the chief constable.

I am aware that the acting deputy chief constable in north Yorkshire is consulting with all chief constables and commissioners to investigate variations in working practices relating to isolated and rural communities. The hon. Member may therefore wish to speak to the force about this matter directly.

Anti-terrorism Strategy

20. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with officials and other Ministers on the co-ordination of anti-terrorism strategy. [134292]

John Reid: I regularly discuss the co-ordination of the Government's strategy on counter terrorism with officials and ministerial colleagues, including at a weekly security meeting which I chair.

Correspondence

21. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average length of time the director general of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate took to reply to hon. Members' letters in the past 12 months. [134293]

Mr. Byrne: For the 12-month period up to and including December 2006 the average waiting time for

responses to letters from hon. Members to the Border and Immigration Agency was 24 days in respect of correspondence on immigration matters.

Departmental Restructuring

22. **Michael Gove:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on departmental restructuring. [134294]

John Reid: The decision to refocus the Home Office so that it is better able to respond to the changes in the world at both a global and local level, where we have moved from static communities and a static world to a highly mobile world was one that was taken by the Prime Minister and discussed at Cabinet.

Identity Cards

23. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the potential contribution of identity cards to the tackling of identity fraud. [134295]

Joan Ryan: Our plans for a National Identity Scheme, including the introduction of identity cards, will not only enable people to prove their identity easily, quickly and simply but will also provide a highly secure means of protecting their identity. This will have a significant impact upon identity fraud, which costs the United Kingdom economy at least £1.7 billion each year.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost has been of the identity card scheme. [134288]

Joan Ryan: Some £58 million has been spent on the identity cards scheme since the start of the 2003-04 financial year and up to the end of September 2006.

DNA Database

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the national DNA database. [134364]

24. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the national DNA database; and if he will make a statement. [134296]

Joan Ryan: The National DNA database is a key police intelligence tool which contributes to the efficiency of crime detection. It has a key role to play in contributing to detection outcomes, eliminating the innocent from inquiries, focusing the direction of inquiries resulting in savings in police time and in building public confidence that elusive offenders may be detected and brought to justice.

Violent Crime

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures to combat violent crime. [134297]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are taking forward a full range of work to tackle violent crime. This has included: introducing new legislation; providing intensive support to practitioners in those areas which face the biggest challenges in terms of violent crime; and developing a range of measures to reduce sexual and domestic violence re-offending.

We consider that a 34 per cent. fall in BCS violent crime since 1997 is testament to the effectiveness of these measures, and we will continue to focus our efforts to bring down the level of these serious crimes even further.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans his Department has to hold another Antisocial Behaviour Day Count. [134937]

Mr. McNulty: There are no current plans to hold another national Antisocial Behaviour Day Count.

Since the 2003 day count, a number of new ways of measuring performance have been introduced. The focus is now on the perception of antisocial behaviour rather than specific incident counting, which is subject to severe under-reporting. As such these measures supersede the need for a specific "one day" antisocial behaviour incident count.

The perception of antisocial behaviour is monitored nationally through the British Crime Survey (BCS) and at a local level through the Local Government User Satisfaction Survey (LGUSS). In addition a survey of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) is conducted on a quarterly basis to monitor, at a local level, the uptake and use of a number of tools and powers used to tackle antisocial behaviour, such as acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs), demotion orders and housing injunctions.

Crime: Macclesfield

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the recorded crime figures for the Macclesfield borough in the Cheshire Constabulary East Division were in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 according to the classifications (i) all crime, (ii) burglary of a dwelling, (iii) violent crime, (iv) vehicle crime and (v) criminal damage; and what assessment he has made of the trends in these statistics. [134403]

Mr. Coaker: The statistics are not available in the form requested as data for 2006-07 will not be available until 19 July 2007. Statistics for 2005-06 are in the following table together with the percentage change from the previous year.

Offences recorded in the Macclesfield crime and disorder reduction partnership area

	2005-06	Percentage change from previous year
Total crime	11,719	1.4
Burglary in a dwelling	679	-6.7
Violent crime	2,319	16.6
Vehicle crime	1,750	14.5
Criminal damage	2,692	-8.2

Electronic Tags

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders reoffended whilst wearing electronic tags in each year since their introduction; and if he will make a statement. [110531]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table sets out the number of offenders, who have been cautioned, convicted or are awaiting prosecution for offences while they were subject to the home detention curfew scheme, as currently notified to the National Offender Management Service.

The totals for 2005-06 have been updated following a cross-checking of reoffending data from the Police National Computer for the third and fourth quarters of 2005 and the first quarter of 2006.

Some of those awaiting prosecution will be found not guilty or charges will be dropped.

Information is not collected on further convictions for offenders subject to other electronic monitoring schemes apart from home detention curfew.

Number of offenders cautioned, convicted or awaiting prosecution for an offence committed while they were subject to the home detention curfew scheme

	Number
1999	71
1999-2000	294
2000-01	244
2001-02	208
2002-03	584
2003-04	1,298
2004-05	1,311
2005-06	1,214

Extradition

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria his Department uses in assessing extradition requests from other countries. [132660]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* The requirements for extradition requests are set out in the Extradition Act 2003. Extradition requests from EU member states are assessed wholly by the courts using criteria set out in Part one of the Act.

Extradition requests from other parts of the world are considered in part by the courts using criteria set out in Part two of the Act. The Secretary of State's role in considering extradition requests is limited to requests made under Part two of the Act; and in those requests, he must decide whether he is prohibited from ordering a person's extradition under criteria set out at sections 94-96 of the Act. These relate to the death penalty, speciality and possible earlier extradition from a third country.

Fixed Penalties

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many penalty notices for disorder were issued for *(a)* theft, *(b)* criminal damage, *(c)* being drunk and disorderly and *(d)* dropping litter in each month since November 2004. [130816]

Mr. Coaker: Penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) rolled-out to all police forces in England and Wales under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. Under the scheme, the police can issue a fixed penalty of £50 or £80 for a specified range of disorder offences including shop theft (under £200) and criminal damage (under £500).

Data on the number of PNDs (penalty notice for disorder) issued for the specified offence for each month since November 2004 are provided in the following tables. The data for 2006 are provisional. Finalised data for 2006 will be available this summer.

The figures show that the PND has been an increasingly useful disposal option for the police in tackling low-level antisocial behaviour, providing them with a simple, non-bureaucratic financial punishment for first-time offenders.

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over for selected offences by month, November 2004 to December 2006[1,2]

Offence		Total	January	February	March	April	May	June
Drunk and disorderly	2004	6,154	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2005	37,038	2,842	2,732	2,779	2,860	2,927	2,551
	2006[1]	42,308	3,101	3,090	3,073	3,696	3,515	3,503
Criminal Damage (under £500)	2004	1,103	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2005	12,168	813	754	786	906	982	990
	2006[1]	19,654	1,505	1,377	1,312	1,562	1,584	1,710
Theft (retail under £200)	2004	2,018	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2005	21,997	1,286	1,309	1,603	1,806	1,822	1,728

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 and over for selected offences by month, November 2004 to December 2006[1,2]

Offence		Total	January	February	March	April	May	June
	2006[1]	37,463	2,608	2,655	2,983	2,843	2,957	2,999
Depositing and leaving litter	2004	49	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2005	737	32	47	56	54	75	73
	2006[1]	1,125	77	89	69	109	118	124

Offence		July	August	September	October	November	December
Drunk and disorderly	2004	—	—	—	—	2,504	3,650
	2005	3,092	2,969	2,822	3,400	3,296	4,768
	2006[1]	3,481	3,441	3,545	3,753	3,304	4,806
Criminal Damage (under £500)	2004	—	—	—	—	452	651
	2005	1,158	1,158	1,052	1,193	1,093	1,283
	2006[1]	1,746	1,919	1,806	1,778	1,579	1,776
Theft (retail under £200)	2004	—	—	—	—	872	1,146
	2005	1,700	1,746	2,005	2,048	2,432	2,512
	2006[1]	2,722	3,148	3,346	3,498	3,873	3,831
Depositing and leaving litter	2004	—	—	—	—	19	30
	2005	60	53	63	71	66	87
	2006[1]	87	77	108	104	87	76

[1] Data on PNDs issued in 2006 are unpublished and provisional.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Homicide: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded murders there were in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of those recorded murders led to a conviction in each year, broken down by borough. [133512]

Mr. Coaker: The statistics are not available in the form requested. The recorded crime statistics relate to homicide offences and convictions data relates to offenders. In addition, recorded crime data are published on a financial year basis and conviction data are published on a calendar year basis. For these reasons, the two data sources are therefore not directly comparable.

Figures for the number of offences recorded and the number of convictions are in the following tables. Recorded crime data at borough level are only available from 2000-01.

Table 1: Recorded offences of homicide by London borough—2000-01 to 2005-06

Borough	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Barking and Dagenham	4	2	3	4	8	4
Barnet	8	4	5	2	5	4
Bexley	3	2	2	0	2	3
Brent	6	12	6	10	18	10
Bromley	7	3	4	2	3	2
Camden	7	10	16	1	8	22
City of Westminster	8	8	9	6	5	8
Croydon	3	7	6	12	10	10
Ealing	8	9	9	6	8	8
Enfield	2	6	6	6	12	6
Greenwich	4	5	4	12	8	5
Hackney	14	14	6	20	9	7
Hammersmith and Fulham	6	10	6	4	4	2
Haringey	9	7	17	12	10	5
Harrow	3	3	0	3	0	2

Table 1: Recorded offences of homicide by London borough—2000-01 to 2005-06

Borough	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Havering	5	3	1	6	0	2
Hillingdon	2	2	5	6	2	3
Hounslow	5	6	2	7	6	5
Islington	11	9	3	5	7	2
Kensington and Chelsea	4	3	3	1	9	4
Kingston upon Thames	1	3	0	1	2	2
Lambeth	13	17	15	12	10	7
Lewisham	6	7	5	9	5	9
Merton	3	2	3	2	0	3
Newham	11	7	14	15	10	13
Redbridge	5	3	5	8	4	6
Richmond upon Thames	2	0	2	3	3	2
Southwark	15	11	11	13	9	7
Sutton	3	2	3	1	1	0
Tower Hamlets	4	9	11	11	8	0
Waltham Forest	4	5	7	9	5	7
Wandsworth	3	11	6	2	4	5
Total	189	202	195	211	195	175

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of homicide, broken down by London court area, 1996 to 2005[1,2,3]

London court Area	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
City of London											
Guildhall Justice Rooms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Inner London Courts											
Bow Street	2	1	4	3	5	8	3	3	3	5	4
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	8	14	5	10	7	10	12	15	13	16	16
Greenwich and Woolwich	2	4	10	14	5	7	3	9	8	6	11
Highbury Corner	15	16	14	22	13	7	13	8	7	9	6
Horseferry Road	2	3	3	3	2	4	1	6	2	6	9
Marylebone	4	3	4	1	3	5	—	—	—	—	—
South Western	—	2	2	1	8	6	3	4	4	—	4
Thames	2	—	1	1	5	11	12	7	7	15	13
West London	2	2	6	4	4	4	2	6	8	2	10
Inner London Juvenile Courts	1	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total - Inner London	38	51	50	59	52	62	49	58	52	59	73
Outer London Boroughs											
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	—	6	1	—	6	3	4	1	1
Barnet	1	1	—	3	4	1	2	6	7	3	4
Bexley	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	1	—	4
Brent	6	4	4	4	1	15	7	6	7	11	8
Bromley	2	2	—	1	3	—	1	4	1	2	—
Croydon	3	1	1	1	—	1	2	8	4	9	6
Ealing	3	3	3	4	2	8	5	3	4	5	6
Enfield	3		4	1	5	4	3	7	4	9	9
Haringey	5	3	3	4	3	2	11	5	7	7	4
Harrow	—	1	—	2	1	2	1	—	—	2	—
Havering	1	—	2	—	1	2	3	—	—	4	—
Hillingdon	3	2	5	2	1	—	1	1	2	8	2
Hounslow	2	—	3	7	6	7	1	1	3	1	7
Kingston-upon-Thames	4	—	1	—	2	1		4		4	1

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of homicide, broken down by London court area, 1996 to 2005[1,2,3]

London court Area	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Merton	4	2	2	1	1	2	6	-	1	4	1
Newham	2	3	2	5	6	4	4	8	3	11	12
Redbridge	2	1	-	1	2	-	1	-	3	3	9
Richmond upon Thames	1	-	2	3	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
Sutton	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	3	-
Waltham Forest	3	3	1	5	-	1	7	3	4	4	3
Total - Outer London	45	26	33	52	41	52	63	62	58	91	77
Total	83	77	83	111	93	114	112	120	110	151	150

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort as made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The data covers: murder, manslaughter and infanticide—provided to be consistent with recorded crime data provided for this PQ.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Ref IOS 210-07.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when Ministers or officials from his Department last met the chairs of local police committees. [116681]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary (John Reid) and I met with chairs of police authorities and with chief constables most recently at a seminar on police reform on 2 November 2006. I also attended the conference of the Association of Police Authorities, at which many chairs of police authorities were present, on 30 November 2006. I meet the APA on regular occasions and meet the chairs of local committees throughout the year in line with my duties as Police Minister.

Norwich Prison

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the health and safety of prisoners being held in A wing at HMP Norwich; what assessment he has made of the adequacy of staffing levels at HMP Norwich; and if he will make a statement. [134245]

Mr. Sutcliffe: HMP/YOI Norwich has risk assessments and safe systems of work in place for all areas of the prison and for all activities. Part of A wing reopened in late January 2007 following up-to-date Health and Safety risk assessments and safe systems of work been put in place. Prior to occupation having the cells were inspected personally by the Governor and confirmed as being appropriate and suitable cellular accommodation by the Eastern Area Manager. The remaining poor repair cellular accommodation in A wing is not occupied. Safe staffing levels have been agreed for the operation of the prison and for the daily operation of the reopened A wing facility four additional staff have been added to the complement.

Passports: Lost Property

Nigel Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of passports dispatched by courier did not arrive at their destination in the last period for which the figures are available; what those figures were in the last comparable period prior to the contract being awarded to couriers; if he will ensure that security of delivery is the paramount consideration in re-awarding the contract; and if he will make a statement. [133141]

Joan Ryan: For the 12 month period ending January 2007, 728 passports have been confirmed as lost while in the delivery process. This equates to 0.011 per cent. of passports delivered. Secure Delivery commenced in February 2004, and the last period of data available for the previous Royal Mail arrangements is for 2003. In that year, 3,593 passports were recorded as lost in the delivery process, which equates to 0.065 per cent.

Secure Delivery has therefore seen a reduction of over 80 per cent. in the number of passports lost in this way.

Security of delivery is the paramount consideration in the current arrangements, and all deliveries can be tracked from collection to the point of delivery. The new contract will balance the need to provide a secure delivery service with the need to provide value for money and high levels of customer service.

Police Custody

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1227W, on police custody, on how many occasions Operation Safeguard was used in England and Wales between 1 January 2006 and 1 April 2007. [134069]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Operation Safeguard was reactivated on 22 January 2007. Between 22 January and 30 March 2007, Operation Safeguard was used on 9,380 occasions. This does not correspond precisely to a number of prisoners: one occasion means one prisoner night in a police cell.

Police: Broadcasting Programmes

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police forces in England and Wales charge television companies for video footage used in television programmes. [133920]

Mr. McNulty: Charging the media for police-held video material is a matter for decision by individual chief officers. The Association of Chief Police Officers have produced guidance notes on this subject entitled "Media Advisory Group Guidelines Parts 1-11".

Police: Cheshire

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers were recruited in Cheshire in each year since 1997. [134033]

Mr. McNulty: The available data, for 2002-03 onwards, is in the following tables.

Police officer recruits[1] to Cheshire police from 2002-03 to 2005-06[2] (FTE)[3]

	Cheshire
2002-03	141
2003-04	153
2004-05	105
2005-06	121

[1] Recruits included those officers joining as standard direct recruits and those who were previously special constables. This excludes police officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.
[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Data are not available prior to 2002-03.
[3] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police community support officer recruits[1] to Cheshire police from 2002-03 to 2005-06[2] (FTE)[3]

	Cheshire
2002-03	2
2003-04	26
2004-05	12
2005-06	14

[1] Recruits included those officers joining as standard direct recruits and those who were previously special constables. This excludes police community support officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.
[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Data are not available prior to 2002-03.
[3] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: County Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were transferred from non-operational duties to front line operations in the community in County Durham in each year since 2002; and how many civilian staff filled these non-operational posts. [134439]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally. The deployment of police officers and police staff is an operational matter for individual chief constables.

Police: Bullying

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported incidents of bullying there were in police forces in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police force area. [133271]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former police officers rejoined the police force in England and Wales in each year since 1997, broken down by police force area. [133273]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are from 2002-03 onwards and are in the following table.

Police officer retainers (FTE)[1] by force from 2002-03 to 2005-06[2]

	2002-03	2003-04[3]	2004-05	2005-06
Avon and Somerset	1	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	5	2	0	3
Cambridgeshire	8	9	8	5
Cheshire	2	1	2	0
Cleveland	1	0	1	2
Cumbria	4	1	0	1
Derbyshire	19	0	13	20
Devon and Cornwall	6	0	1	11
Dorset	0	1	1	7
Durham	0	2	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	n/a	0	3
Essex	9	30	4	7
Gloucestershire	4	0	0	5
Greater Manchester	0	17	35	29
Gwent	0	1	13	17
Hampshire	6	3	19	14
Hertfordshire	5	4	2	1
Humberside	6	3	3	32
Kent	1	10	7	15
Lancashire	5	1	1	0
Leicestershire	5	2	10	11

Police officer retainers (FTE)[1] by force from 2002-03 to 2005-06[2]

	2002-03	2003-04[3]	2004-05	2005-06
Lincolnshire	5	1	2	4
London, City of	1	2	2	1
Merseyside	0	0	1	0
Metropolitan Police	46	69	113	100
Norfolk	8	6	6	5
Northamptonshire	1	0	0	1
Northumbria	0	8	1	10
North Wales	0	0	1	8
North Yorkshire	1	n/a	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	1	1	20
South Wales	22	4	0	32
South Yorkshire	0	6	11	18
Staffordshire	7	13	15	2
Suffolk	1	0	0	10
Surrey	9	4	4	8
Sussex	4	8	2	11
Thames Valley	8	7	18	18
Warwickshire	1	4	1	3
West Mercia	2	3	14	11
West Midlands	23	15	13	9
West Yorkshire	4	3	9	17
Wiltshire	2	5	1	3

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.
[3] Data are not available for Dyfed-Powys and North Yorkshire.

Police: Parental Leave

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers took *(a)* maternity leave, *(b)* paternity leave and *(c)* a career break in each year since 1997. [133272]

Mr. McNulty: The available data is in the table; they are from the 2002-03 financial year onwards and relate to long-term absences as at the end of each financial year.

Police officers (FTE)[1] on long-term absence as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2006[2]

As at 31 March each year	Maternity leave	Paternity leave	Career break
2003[3]	291	7	626
2004	642	27	750
2005[4]	617	41	867
2006	713	31	1,124

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding these figures may not match published totals.
[2] Data are available from 2002-03 onwards.
[3] Data are not available for Dyfed-Powys, Nottinghamshire, Sussex and West Midlands.
[4] Data are not available for North Wales.

Police: Telephone Services

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police authorities did not meet the target time for handling calls from the public under the National Call Handling Standards for *(a)* urgent and *(b)* non-urgent calls in the most recent year for which figures are available. [121205]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 February 2007]*: The target times for answering emergency and non-emergency calls under the National Call Handling Standards is not yet collated nationally, as NCHS has not been fully implemented in all forces.

The HMIC Baseline Assessment in 2006 examined implementation of NCHS and its relationship with the Quality of Service Agreement under 1C Customer Service and Accessibility. The HMIC's 2007-08 assessment regime will also address this area of work.

Prisoners Release: Acquittals

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial and other assistance is available to those who are released from prison having been on remand and are found to be innocent. [133870]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Remand prisoners are eligible for all induction and resettlement programmes within the prisons and are able to access practical support to effectively help them re-integrate back into the community.

Currently there is no financial scheme that covers such prisoners. However, remand prisoners are entitled to travel warrants and in some cases to housing benefit and council tax benefit and mortgage interest for a limited time.

Prisoners: Compensation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many claims for compensation were made by prisoners at each of Her Majesty's Prisons and Young Offender Institutions in each year between 1997 and 2007; on what basis each claim was made; how many of these claims were settled out of court; how many were otherwise successful; what the total sum was of compensation paid; and what action was taken by the prison authorities in each case to prevent similar claims in the future. [134450]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners there were in prisons in England and Wales on 31 March, broken down by country of origin. [132929]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information as at the end of February 2007 on the numbers of prisoners by recorded nationality in all prison establishments in England and Wales is given in the following table. This is the latest date for which the information is currently available

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison population in prison establishments in England and Wales showing all nationalities, February 2007

	Number
Total Prison population	79,581
Unrecorded	879
Total other	less than 50
Aruba	less than 50
United Arab Emirates	less than 50
Afghanistan	96
Anguilla	less than 50
Albania	135
Armenia	less than 50
Netherlands Antilles	less than 50
Angola	90
Argentina	less than 50
Austria	less than 50
Australia	less than 50
Azerbaijan	less than 50
Bosnia-Herzegovina	less than 50
Barbados	less than 50
Bangladesh	171
Belgium	less than 50
Bulgaria	less than 50
Bahrain	less than 50
Burundi	less than 50
Dahomey (Benin)	less than 50
Bermuda	less than 50
Bolivia	less than 50
Brazil	83
Bahamas	less than 50
Burma	less than 50
Botswana	less than 50
Belize	less than 50
Canada	less than 50
Croatia	less than 50
Ivory Coast	less than 50
Central African Republic	less than 50
Congo	112
Switzerland	less than 50
Chile	less than 50
Cameroon, United Republic	less than 50
China	279
Columbia	119
Costa Rica	less than 50
Czech Republic	less than 50
Cuba	less than 50
Cape Verde	less than 50
Cyprus	57
Germany	143
Denmark	less than 50
Dominica	less than 50
Dominican Republic	less than 50
Algeria	198
Estonia	less than 50
Ecuador	less than 50
Egypt	less than 50
Spain	74
Ethiopia	53
French Guyana	less than 50
Finland	less than 50

Prison population in prison establishments in England and Wales showing all nationalities, February 2007

	Number
Fiji	less than 50
France	162
French Southern Territories	less than 50
Grenada	less than 50
Georgia	less than 50
Ghana	211
Gibraltar	less than 50
Gambia	less than 50
Guinea	less than 50
Equatorial Guinea	less than 50
Greece	less than 50
Guatemala	less than 50
Guinea/Bissau	less than 50
Guyana	less than 50
Hong Kong	less than 50
Honduras	less than 50
Haiti	less than 50
Hungary	less than 50
Iran	205
Indonesia	less than 50
Israel	less than 50
India	306
Iraq	288
Irish Republic	666
Italy	113
Jamaica	1,490
Jordan	less than 50
Kazakhstan	less than 50
Kenya	60
Kiribati	less than 50
Kyrgystan	less than 50
Korea Republic of (Sth)	less than 50
Kuwait	less than 50
Lebanon	less than 50
St. Lucia	less than 50
Sri Lanka	167
Lithuania	188
Liberia	less than 50
Latvia	less than 50
Libya	less than 50
Morocco	less than 50
Moldova	less than 50
Macedonia	less than 50
Serbia and Montenegro	92
Mali	less than 50
Mongolia	less than 50
Mauritania	less than 50
Montserrat	less than 50
Malta	less than 50
Mauritius	less than 50
Malawi	less than 50
Mexico	less than 50
Malaysia	less than 50
Mozambique	less than 50
Namibia	less than 50
Niger	less than 50
Nigeria	1,070
Netherlands	147
Norway	less than 50
New Zealand	less than 50
Oman	less than 50

Prison population in prison establishments in England and Wales showing all nationalities, February 2007

	Number
Panama	less than 50
Peru	less than 50
Papua New Guinea	less than 50
Philippines	less than 50
Pakistan	444
Poland	290
Portugal	193
Paraguay	less than 50
Qatar	less than 50
Romania	144
Rwanda	less than 50
Saudi Arabia	less than 50
Seychelles	less than 50
Sudan	less than 50
Sweden	less than 50
Slovakia	less than 50
Singapore	less than 50
St. Christopher and Nevis	less than 50
Sierre Leone	82
Senegal	less than 50
Somalia	348
Slovenia	less than 50
Surinam	less than 50
Russia	116
El Salvador	less than 50
St Kitts and Nevis	less than 50
Syrian Arab Republic	less than 50
Swaziland	less than 50
Chad	less than 50
Togo	less than 50
Thailand	less than 50
Tunisia	less than 50
East Timor (Portuguese)	less than 50
Turkey	228
Trinidad and Tobago	97
Tanzania	less than 50
Uganda	86
United Kingdom	67,439
United States of America	99
Uzbekistan	less than 50
St. Vincent ad The Grenadines	less than 50
Venezuela	less than 50
Vietnam	381
Western Sahara	less than 50
Yemen, Republic of	less than 50
South Africa	201
Zambia	less than 50
Congo, Democratic Republic	less than 50
Zimbabwe	189

Note:
For reasons of confidentiality and data integrity numbers under 50 are not shown.

Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 546-7W, on prisons, when he expects to make publicly available the results of the trial of the body orifice scanner in the high security prison. [134074]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no plans to make public the results of this trial. It would not be in the public interest to publicise details of Prison Service security mechanisms.

Prisons: Childbirth

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women gave birth while serving a prison sentence in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [133977]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service has only routinely kept this information centrally since April 2005. Figures prior to this date are not available.

The following figures show, for the last two years, the numbers of women who gave birth while serving the custodial part of a sentence of imprisonment:

1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006: 106
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007: 98

Prisons: Rural Areas

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has assessed the merits of providing short-term temporary cells in rural areas. [134372]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* The National Offender Management Service has investigated a wide range of potential temporary accommodation to increase capacity. Part of the 8,000 place capacity-building programme includes ready built modular accommodation which has an expected life span of 10 to 25 years. The early stages of the programme are using land on existing prison sites. Some of these are in rural areas.

Rape: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded rapes there were in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of those recorded rapes led to a conviction in each year, broken down by borough. [133510]

Mr. Coaker: The statistics are not available in the form requested. Recorded rape statistics relate to offences and convictions data relate to offenders. In addition, recorded crime data are published on a financial year basis and conviction data are published on a calendar year basis. For these reasons, the two data sources are not directly comparable.

Figures for the number of offences recorded and the number of convictions are provided in the following tables. Recorded crime data at borough level are available only from 2000-01.

Table 1: Recorded offences of rape by London borough 2000-01 and 2001-02

Borough	2000-01	2001-02
Barking and Dagenham	48	53
Barnet	48	62
Bexley	32	53
Brent	119	105
Bromley	48	62
Camden	91	96
City of Westminster	114	112
Croydon	102	109

Table 1: Recorded offences of rape by London borough 2000-01 and 2001-02

Borough	2000-01	2001-02
Ealing	98	93
Enfield	58	76
Greenwich	80	94
Hackney	103	108
Hammersmith and Fulham	66	57
Haringey	95	118
Harrow	34	38
Havering	19	35
Hillingdon	31	55
Hounslow	48	71
Islington	72	109
Kensington and Chelsea	34	32
Kingston upon Thames	27	37
Lambeth	163	172
Lewisham	105	115
Merton	19	38
Newham	115	93
Redbridge	38	63
Richmond upon Thames	28	24
Southwark	115	129
Sutton	20	22
Tower Hamlets	78	76
Waltham Forest	74	85
Wandsworth	65	97
Total	2,187	2,489

Table 2: Recorded offences of rape by London borough 2002-03 to 2005-06

Borough	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Barking and Dagenham	70	56	74	66
Barnet	60	84	84	70
Bexley	43	31	48	36
Brent	87	129	99	97
Bromley	70	47	57	54
Camden	71	52	68	67
City of Westminster	131	119	113	102
Croydon	99	72	90	113
Ealing	107	96	77	101
Enfield	91	83	74	72
Greenwich	119	116	99	120
Hackney	101	118	132	136
Hammersmith and Fulham	74	96	63	56
Haringey	113	91	99	110
Harrow	29	45	50	37
Havering	32	51	30	49
Hillingdon	57	58	52	45
Hounslow	70	68	75	71
Islington	135	97	93	76
Kensington and Chelsea	43	42	36	42
Kingston upon Thames	50	45	37	42
Lambeth	166	126	146	139
Lewisham	150	132	96	85
Merton	44	39	45	39
Newham	132	142	151	112
Redbridge	69	54	72	46
Richmond upon Thames	22	14	22	20
Southwark	141	163	126	126
Sutton	30	27	31	39
Tower Hamlets	105	96	85	85
Waltham Forest	87	87	55	84
Wandsworth	109	96	64	61
Total	2,727	2,569	2,443	2,398

Note:
The National Crime Recording standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures for earlier years are therefore not directly comparable.

Table 3: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of rape, broken down by London Court Area, 1996 to 2005[1,2,3]

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
City of London										
Guildhall Justice Rooms	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Inner London Courts										
Bow Street	—	1	3	1	4	1	2	1	3	—
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	16	8	7	15	12	11	11	16	12	14
Greenwich and Woolwich	4	4	8	6	8	10	10	11	13	7
Highbury Corner	11	8	9	3	7	5	5	9	19	10
Horseferry Road	5	2	3	2	4	3	2	5	1	3
Marylebone	1	2	3	2	3	3	—	—	—	—
South western	3	6	1	3	1	6	4	5	3	4
Thames	—	2	2	7	7	10	8	3	5	11
West London	1	5	2	1	4	4	5	7	4	7
Inner London Juvenile Courts	—	9	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 3: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of rape, broken down by London Court Area, 1996 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total—Inner London	41	46	38	39	46	52	45	56	57	56
Outer London										
Barking and Dagenham	1	1	2	1	2	2	5	2	8	2
Barnet	1	5	3	4	1	4	3	4	2	1
Bexley	3	—	3	—	—	2	2	2	1	4
Brent	3	5	5	2	6	2	6	1	2	9
Bromley	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	2	1	5
Croydon	5	2	3	6	—	4	7	5	6	8
Ealing	3	6	7	6	4	3	2	2	6	—
Enfield	1	3	2	1	1	4	1	10	4	2
Haringey	6	1	5	7	5	3	5	6	3	5
Harrow	2	1	3	—	3	1	3	2	1	2
Havering	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Hillingdon	—	2	2	—	3	—	1	4	2	1
Hounslow	5	1	—	1	1	—	2	3	4	7
Kingston-upon-Thames	—	—	1	—	1	1	4	1	2	3
Merton	1	—	—	—	2	—	3	2	1	2
Newham	6	7	5	—	4	1	8	15	2	4
Redbridge	1	3	3	—	3	—	4	1	2	—
Richmond upon Thames	2	—	1	—	1	—	3	1	2	2
Sutton	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Waltham Forest	4	4	2	2	5	4	5	5	7	3
Total—Outer London	46	41	54	31	42	31	66	68	60	63
Total	87	87	92	70	88	83	112	124	117	119

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Rape includes rape of a female and rape of a male.

Sentencing

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what extra resources and planning were made for the introduction of indeterminate public protection sentences; and if he will make a statement. [133785]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Criminal Justice Act 2003 created new indeterminate public protection sentences aimed specifically at sexual and violent offenders. This was part of an overall rebalancing of the system to maximise public protection:

the Government believe serious and dangerous offenders should be kept in prison for as long as is necessary to protect the public;

other offenders should normally be punished in the community.

No additional resources were allocated specifically for IPP but correctional services budgets take into account the overall work load demanded of them, including all the measures in the 2003 Act.

Terrorism

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to introduce new terrorism legislation to Parliament this Session; and if he will make a statement. [133649]

Mr. McNulty: Yes, we will let Parliament know when as soon as possible.

World War II: Education

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent in supporting education on the Holocaust in *(a)* schools and *(b)* the community in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [132401]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Data on expenditure by schools to support education on the Holocaust are not collected centrally. However a grant of £3 million, administered by the Department, has been made to subsidise the Holocaust Educational Trust's "Lessons from Auschwitz" programme between April 2006 and March 2008. The programme aims to achieve the participation of two post-16 students from every school and Sixth form college in visits to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Other Departments also fund activities relating to Holocaust education.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biofuels

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the carbon savings resulting from the growing of biofuels on land which had previously been *(a)* used to grow food crops and *(b)* set aside or unused; and if he will make a statement. [132773]

Ian Pearson: The Government have funded a number of studies to consider environmental impacts and benefits of biofuels, including Life Cycle Assessments. Carbon savings vary depending on a number of factors including the crop used and the way it is cultivated, previous land use, the transport used and the processing and conversion process.

A DEFRA-funded project is currently under way to develop a software tool to address the main environmental issues associated with bio-energy technologies. This will include a quantitative assessment of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission savings by using a land use reference system which includes "set-aside" and "food cropland". The tool will be available later this year.

The Government are also developing a comprehensive carbon and sustainability reporting scheme under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation. This will require suppliers wishing to claim credits for their biofuels to provide information on the GHG saving and wider sustainability characteristics of those fuels. The GHG calculation methodology includes previous land use in addition to emissions from cultivation, transportation and processing and conversion.

Cattle: Disease Control

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals were slaughtered under the cull of animals owned by Mr. Davis Dobbin of Backford, Chester, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* age group; what the cost was of the cull for his Department; how many animals appeared not to be correctly identified; and how many appeared to have irregularities in their passports. [134086]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 26 April 2007]:* I cannot comment on this case as there are criminal proceedings pending.

Departments: Smith Institute

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times he has *(a)* spoken at and *(b)* attended meetings at the Smith Institute in an official capacity; and how many of those occasions were in the last 12 months in each case. [133764]

Barry Gardiner: In the last 12 months, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (David Miliband) has visited the Smith Institute in an official capacity on 17 October 2006 and 7 February 2007.

Domestic Wastes: Norfolk

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 77-80W, on domestic waste, on what basis the borough council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk was included in the list. [134608]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* In a recent survey commissioned by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), the response received from King's Lynn and West Norfolk borough council indicated that the council operates an alternate week refuse and recycling service.

However, on clarification, it appears the council misunderstood the use of the terms "alternate weekly collection".

WRAP are currently reviewing their list of authorities providing an alternate weekly collection service and will be publishing an amended version shortly.

Fishing Vessels

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what share of total UK fishing quotas he allocated to the under-10 metre fleet in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [133883]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2006, 2 per cent. of the UK's opening quota was allocated to the 10 metre and under fleet. However, such an analysis is misleading because the total UK quota includes quota for stocks which are of no interest to inshore vessels, such as deep sea species and stocks fished in external waters. In addition, many of these vessels catch types of fish, such as crabs and scallops, which are not subject to quotas.

Fishing opportunities for the 10 metre and under fleet are boosted by Fishing Administrations acquiring additional quota in-year for their use.

Results for earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many over-10 metre vessels from *(a)* producer organisations and *(b)* the non-sector have moved into the under-10 metre fleet in each year since 1997. [133884]

Mr. Bradshaw: An over 10 metre vessel cannot join the 10 metre and under fleet. However, owners of over 10 metre vessels are able to sell their quota and licence and acquire a licence in the 10 metre and under fleet. Central data systems record all changes in ownership as a result of a sale or an agreed transfer. While these systems record details of the owners of vessels and licences, they are not designed to allow the details of the vessels and licences held by any individual owner to be tracked over time. As such, information on the movement of owners from over 10 metre vessels to 10 metre and under vessels could be produced only at a disproportionate cost.

Flood Control: EC Grants and Loans

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the implication of the new funding arrangements for the European Rural Development Fund on *(a)* flood defences overall, *(b)* the Thirsk Flood Alleviation Scheme and *(c)* coastal flood defences in Filey. [134016]

Ian Pearson: Flood defence expenditure is generally not covered by the Rural Development Programme for England. Funding for flood defence is a matter for the Environment Agency (EA).

The Rural Development Programme for England provides funding to safeguard and enhance our rural environment and to foster competitive and sustainable businesses and thriving rural communities. There is some limited funding available under the Environmental Stewardship Scheme for the creation of wildlife habitats which may also have flood risk management benefits.

It is not possible for the EA to apply for funding from this programme to fund flood defence works at Thirsk and Filey.

Food: Waste Disposal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to decide on whether to prosecute Bernard Matthews for lapses of bio-security concerning the storage of food waste. [134538]

Mr. Bradshaw: A Food Standards Agency investigation examined the possibility that food waste at the Bernard Matthews cutting plant at Holton may have been stored inappropriately.

The investigation concluded there was no evidence of any offences under the Animal By-Products Regulations 2005, for which DEFRA is the enforcement authority.

The Food Standards Agency also considered whether there was sufficient evidence to justify a prosecution under the Animal By-Products (Identification) Regulations 1995 or the Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006, for which the agency is the enforcement authority. The agency concluded there was insufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction and decided not to proceed to a prosecution in this case.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when his Department plans to complete its review of the Warm Front grant maxima for England; [134609]

(2) when the latest Warm Front price review undertaken by White, Young and Green is expected to be published. [134562]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* These reviews are still continuing, and I expect to make further statements by the end of June.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many households in each parliamentary constituency were assisted through the Warm Front scheme in each year since the scheme was introduced. [134611]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* Since its launch in June 2000, the Warm Front scheme has assisted over 1.2 million households in fuel poverty in England, mainly through energy efficiency measures, including loft and cavity wall insulation.

Data on the number of households assisted in each constituency in each year since the start of the scheme could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, MPs can now access a personal micro site on the Eaga Group website that will update them on work undertaken in their area. The website also provides other information and resources to help MPs to raise awareness of the Warm Front scheme in their constituencies.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many zero carbon homes he expects to be built in each year for which his Department has made such an estimate. [133769]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not collect this information centrally, but are aware of a small number of low and zero carbon homes currently built. The Code for Sustainable Homes and the draft Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change are designed to cut carbon emissions from new homes and promote low and zero carbon homes in the period up to 2016, when the Government have proposed that all new homes will be zero carbon. We would therefore expect an increasing proportion of new housing built over the next 10 years to be zero carbon, but no exact estimates have been made.

Lighting

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consider exempting people with light sensitivity conditions from proposals to phase out the sale of incandescent light bulbs. [133879]

Ian Pearson: The Government are exploring how various groups may be affected by the phasing out of inefficient lightbulbs. It is important that any unintended impacts are mitigated.

Plastics: Packaging

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of plastic bag use in supermarkets. [134040]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency is carrying out a study of the environmental impacts of a range of carrier bags, including disposable plastic carrier bags and bio-degradable alternatives. The study will look at

their entire life-cycle from raw material extraction through to product manufacture. To date, the evidence suggests there would be no benefit in reducing the number of plastic bags in use if this encourages the use of alternative packaging or materials which are even more environmentally damaging.

The National Non-Food Crops Centre has also started work on Life Cycle Analysis comparisons of plastic, oxodegradable and biodegradable bags. The centre has established a Thematic Working Group on Biopolymers, which aims to promote and encourage the expansion of such materials. Biopolymers are derived from renewable sources and can be used in a range of products, including bags, which helps to develop a sustainable supply chain.

DEFRA continues to work closely with the devolved administrations, the Waste and Resources Action Programme, the British Retail Consortium, retailers and the plastics industry to develop a voluntary approach for reducing the environmental impact of carrier bags. Earlier this year, UK retailers agreed to reduce the overall environmental impact of their carrier bags by 25 per cent. by the end of 2008.

Polytunnels: Planning Permission

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on planning procedures for *(a)* existing and *(b)* new agricultural polytunnels; what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on such procedures; and if he will make a statement. [131019]

Barry Gardiner: While Communities and Local Government (CLG) has overall responsibility for planning policy in England, the interpretation of planning regulations is a matter for the local planning authority in the first instance.

Polytunnels are important to the horticultural sector for helping growers to supply a wide range of high-quality produce over a full season. Crops, especially soft fruit such as strawberries, need to be protected and polytunnels provide an ideal, cost-effective solution. Growing fruit in polytunnels is in line with DEFRA's Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food in that it meets demand for home grown fruit all the year round. However, extensive polytunnels can have a significant impact on the landscape and the local planning authority must consider each case on its merits.

I have had no discussions with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the question of planning policy for polytunnels, but DEFRA and CLG officials work closely together on this issue.

Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what change there has been in carbon dioxide emissions from power generation since the programmed closure of older nuclear power stations began; how the power generated by those stations has been replaced; and what net change there has been in carbon dioxide emissions as a result of the replacement generation. [132110]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

Since 2000, six older nuclear power stations with a total generation capacity of approximately 2 GW have closed. Total carbon dioxide emissions from the power generation sector over the same period (2000-05) have increased by nearly 5 million tonnes of carbon. The level of carbon emissions from the power sector depends on a number of factors, including the level of demand and the wholesale electricity price, which is underpinned by the price of fossil fuels and the price of carbon in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

The impact of the closure of nuclear power stations on emissions will depend on the assumptions about the stations which have replaced them. If the capacity has been replaced by generation technologies that emit carbon (such as gas-fired generation, for example) then it is likely that the closure of the older nuclear capacity will have contributed to the rise in carbon emissions from the power sector between 2000 and 2005.

River Don: Pollution

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what measures have been implemented in order to prevent further overflow pollution similar to that experienced in 2006 in the River Don; [133989]

(2) what the most recent assessment is of the water quality of the River Don in the area which was affected by the overflow pollution in 2006. [133990]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency (EA) has been working with Yorkshire Water to agree changes to operations at Blackburn Meadows Sewage Treatment Works (Sheffield), within the terms of its permit. Improved maintenance and changes to procedure should improve the ability of the sewage works to deal with future storm events.

A study is under way into the main storm overflow from Aldwarke Sewage Treatment Works (Rotherham). Any improvements the study identifies will be completed by March 2010.

The EA is starting discussions with Yorkshire Water to agree a study into the impact of the combined storm overflows from the middle section of the River Don from Sheffield through Rotherham to Doncaster. The study will establish in detail what happens when summer storms occur and what can be done to improve the infrastructure in the future. In the EA's Periodic Review submission to the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) it will recommend that this study be carried out.

The Environment Agency's preliminary assessment of 2006 chemical water quality data shows that the River Don between Blackburn Meadows Sewage Works and Rotherham Centre (2.5 km) has deteriorated from "fairly good quality" to "fair quality" since 2005. While the river has deteriorated slightly in quality, it has not failed the long-term water quality objective set for the river.

The River Don below Blackburn Meadows Sewage Works failed the Freshwater Fisheries Directive in 2005

and has, provisionally, failed in 2006. It is believed that the sewage treatment works caused this failure. Consequently, the EA is also recommending to Ofwat that a detailed study concerning this failure be carried out.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with representatives of the devolved administrations on measures to maintain and improve the marine environment. [132113]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have been working with the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly in recent months on our Marine Bill White Paper. I hope that that cooperation and commitment to the marine environment will remain after the Scottish elections in May.

Sewage: Floods

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of sewer flooding where raw sewage has contaminated homes and property occurred in *(a)* England, *(b)* each English region and *(c)* each county in the last three years. [134376]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 April 2007]*: Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales. It collects information from companies on internal and external sewer flooding each year by water and sewerage company area.

The following table sets out the number of incidents of internal and external sewer flooding from public sewerage systems by company area in the last three years. The internal and external incidents include flooding to both household and non-household properties. Ofwat does not collect information showing the split of incidents between household and non-household properties. External incidents also include highway flooding incidents and incidents to open public spaces.

	2003-04		*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
Company	*Internal*	*External*	*Internal*	*External*	*Internal*	*External*
Anglian Water	127	3,137	172	2,621	188	1,178
Northumbrian	407	1,895	277	2,085	1,347	3,894
Severn Trent (who also supply parts of Wales)	686	4,912	808	3,285	725	3,477
South West	123	155	144	1,118	187	1,323
Southern	263	5,102	308	5,019	444	5,237
Thames	505	3,106	1,340	3,745	1,103	3,778
United Utilities	822	3,355	1,661	2,943	734	4,056
Wessex	93	3,309	137	3,244	96	1,643
Yorkshire	439	418	469	1,064	306	888
Total	3,465	25,389	5,316	25,124	5,130	25,474

Telephone Use: Mrs. Beckett

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to public funds was of the telephone use of the right hon. Member for Derby, South from her official residence in Admiralty House in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [113985]

Barry Gardiner: Costs incurred by Ministers in the course of official business are borne by the department. The cost to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for telephone services in Admiralty House for my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) between March 2004 and February 2006 was £1,412.51. The bulk of these costs were for the service charges associated with the telephone services provided.

Television: Carbon Emissions

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect on carbon dioxide emissions of plasma television screens. [132227]

Ian Pearson: The Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) estimates that in 2005 63 million television (TV) sets were being used in UK homes. Approximately 90 per cent. of these were the traditional cathode ray tube (CRT) type and approximately 10 per cent. were flat screen plasma or LCD types. By 2010, we estimate that the total number of TVs will rise to around 67 million sets, of which approximately 50 per cent. will be CRTs, and approximately 40 per cent. LCD and plasma. The remaining 10 per cent. will be made up of rear-projection and yet-to-emerge technologies such as organic light-emitting diode and field-emission diode screens.

Our assessment, based on current trends, is that the energy consumed by all TVs could increase from around 10 Terra Watt Hours (TWh) of electricity (roughly 1.1 million tonnes of carbon) in 2005 to over 15 TWh of electricity (1.7 million tonnes of carbon) in 2010. Most of this potential increase in emissions is accounted for by a predicted significant rise in the average electricity consumption of each unit. This will be caused by the trend for consumers purchasing TVs with larger screens, including both plasma and LCD technologies, replacing their older and smaller CRT models, and a small increase in the total TV viewing hours and standby usage by households.

However, we believe there is a potential, through actions by manufacturers and retailers to bring forward and to promote TVs that are more energy efficient, so that the projected 2010 electricity consumption can be reduced by around 10 per cent.

The issue of increasing emissions from new generation television sets and the potential impact of emerging technologies was assessed in a report published for DEFRA in June 2005, entitled "An Assessment of Emerging Innovative Energy Efficient Technologies as part of the Energy Efficiency Innovation Review".

Waste Management

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants of each grade are employed by *(a)* the Waste Management Division and *(b)* the Waste Strategy Division within his Department. [132270]

Barry Gardiner: The number of staff employed in the two divisions as at 31 March 2007 was as follows:

Grade equivalent	*Waste management*	*Waste strategy*
AO	5	3
EO	7	9
HEO	12	9
SEO	1	4
Grade 7	6	5
Grade 6	0	1
SCS	1	1
Total	32	32

The numbers shown are a headcount and exclude inwardly seconded staff.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the job title is of each staff position in *(a)* the Waste Management Division and *(b)* the Waste Strategy Division within his Department. [132272]

Barry Gardiner: Job titles for staff in DEFRA's Waste Management and Strategy Divisions are as follows:

Waste Management Division

SCS Deputy Director, Head of Waste Management Division
Personal Secretary to the Head of Division
Grade 7 Head of Waste Management Licensing Unit
2 HEO Policy advisers
EO Policy adviser
AO Administrator
Grade 7 Head of Fly-tipping Strategy Unit
SEO Policy adviser
2 HEO Policy advisers
EO Policy adviser
AO Administrator
Seconded Policy adviser
Grade 7 Head of Hazardous Waste Unit
SEO Policy adviser (post vacant)
2 HEO Policy advisers
2 EO Policy advisers
AO Administrator
Seconded Policy adviser
Grade 7 Head of Producer Responsibility Unit
4 HEO Policy advisers
2 EO Policy advisers
AO Administrator
Grade 7 Head of Waste Framework Directive Unit
2 HEO Policy advisers (1 post vacant)
EO Policy adviser
Grade 7 Head of Permitting Development Unit
HEO Policy adviser

Waste Strategy Division

SCS Head of Waste Strategy Division
Personal Secretary to Head of Division
G7 Team leader of Waste Policy and Processes Branch
3 HEO Policy advisers
2 EO Policy advisers
Grade 6 Team Leader of Waste Strategy review Branch
SEO Project Manager and Policy adviser
HEO Policy adviser
2 EO Policy advisers
Grade 7 Head of Local Authority Waste Funding and Governance Branch
2 SEO Policy advisers
HEO (D) Policy adviser
EO Policy adviser
AO Administrator
Grade 7 Head of Waste Evidence Branch
SPTO, Senior Waste Technical Officer
HEO Programme Officer (Vacant)
EO Project Officer (Vacant)
AO Administrator (shared between Waste Evidence Branch and Waste
Resources Branch)
Grade 7, Head of Waste and Resources Branch
HEO (D), Policy adviser
HEO Policy adviser
EO Policy adviser
Grade 7 Team Leader and Policy adviser, Local Authority Waste Performance
Branch
2 HEO Policy advisers
3 EO Policy advisers

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many scientists are employed by the *(a)* Waste Management Division and *(b)* Waste Strategy Division within his Department. [132274]

Barry Gardiner: Official scientific capacity in these divisions resides in DEFRA's Waste Evidence Branch (formerly the Waste Research Team).

There are two scientists in this team:

(i) the Head of Branch, a Grade 7, a Chartered Environmentalist and Waste Management Professional who holds a joint Honours BSc in Chemistry and Applied Zoology

(ii) the Senior Waste Technical Officer, a Senior Professional Technical Officer (SPTO), who holds a Master's in Geography focusing on environment.

DEFRA is also supported on waste-related scientific and technical issues by the Environment Agency.

Wood: China

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what procedures are in place to ensure that hardwood products imported from China are not made from timber that has been illegally felled in Indonesia; and if he will make a statement; [134165]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that imports of hardwood finished goods to the EU from China have been sourced from sustainable timber in (a) the Far East and (b) other countries. [134596]

Barry Gardiner: Currently there is no measure available to the UK to stop forest products being imported on the grounds that some or all of the timber used in their manufacture may not have met the laws of a third country.

However, the Indonesian Government have banned the export of round logs and most categories of rough sawn timber, as a measure to help tackle illegal logging within their borders.

To introduce more effective measures, Indonesia is negotiating a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU. This would allow member states to ban imports of timber directly from Indonesia which have not been licensed by the Indonesian Government as legally harvested. The UK Department for International Development is actively supporting these negotiations. This Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) agreement, as currently proposed, would not stop Indonesian companies from exporting timber to third party countries, such as China, that do not have FLEGT type agreements with Indonesia. While the Indonesian Government have indicated that they intend to require timber exports to all countries to meet the same legality requirements as those specified under the VPA, the potential for circumvention remains a matter of concern. One solution might be the inclusion of an obligation on FLEGT partner countries to report on levels of timber imports and exports and actions taken to prevent circumvention.

The European Commission recently completed a public consultation exercise on options for additional measures. The UK has indicated particular interest in proposals for a new regulation which would make it a crime in a member state, to trade in products which contain or were manufactured from timber that had been illegally harvested, regardless of country of origin. It is important to stress that currently these options are presented in outline; the European Commission has made no formal proposal to the Council of Ministers. A great deal of detailed work must be done to ensure that any future legal instrument represents good and enforceable law.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Cancer: Drugs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment has been carried out by his Department of the effectiveness of Sutent in treating cancer; and if he will make a statement. [133106]

Paul Goggins: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has responsibility for assessment of the cost and clinical effectiveness of new cancer drugs such as Sutent. In July 2006, the Department established a formal link with NICE (on behalf of the HPSS) under which NICE guidance is reviewed for its applicability to Northern Ireland and, where deemed to be applicable, is endorsed by the Department for implementation in the HPSS. Sutent has not yet been referred to NICE for assessment.

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has however assessed this drug and has not recommended its use in the NHS in Scotland. In the absence of an assessment by MCE, local commissioners will be informed by the SMC's guidance when assessing priorities for the use of specialist drugs moneys in Northern Ireland. In this context, therefore, the Department would not expect Sutent to be widely available for patients in Northern Ireland until further evidence of the clinical and cost effectiveness of the drug is available.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on hospitality by (a) each department in Northern Ireland and (b) his Department in financial year 2006-07. [133253]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the amount spent on hospitality by each department in Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Office in the financial year 2006-07.

Department	*Amount spent on hospitality 2006-07 (£)*
DARD	60,618
DCAL	26,590.64
DE	43,983.43
DEL	29,819
DETI	22,664.81
DOE	11,615.03
DFP	140,041
DHSSPS	161,813
DRD	16,596.14
DSD	25,187
OFMDFM	78,523
NIO	404,476

These figures are based on provisional outturn and are therefore subject to change. They relate to expenditure on hospitality and entertainment provided but in the case of DE, DFP and DSD it has not been possible, without incurring disproportionate costs, to completely separate out other associated costs such as room hire.

Expenditure incurred on hospitality by the NIO includes accommodation and hospitality for members of the royal family, visiting dignitaries and Heads of State, and also hospitality for the representatives of business, voluntary and community sectors in Northern Ireland attending the annual garden party at Hillsborough Castle.

Departments: Public Opinion

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a copy of the full results of the scoping study opinion poll commissioned from MORI by his Department. [134250]

Mr. Hanson: My Department has not commissioned a scoping study opinion poll from MORI in respect of the proposed multi-sports stadium at the Maze/Long Kesh site.

Doctors: Recruitment

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what date he expects doctors who have already been interviewed in Northern Ireland to be informed of the outcome of round one. [133691]

Paul Goggins: All applicants will be informed of the outcome of round one on completion of the interview process. This is expected at the end of May 2007.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects medical applicants to the Northern Ireland unit of application to be able to express a preference for a particular hospital and location within the Province. [133692]

Paul Goggins: Successful applicants will be able to express preferences following the round of interviews, which are expected to be completed at the end of May 2007.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which specialities have already given junior doctors the opportunity to submit a CV with their application in Northern Ireland. [133696]

Paul Goggins: In Northern Ireland all recruitment panels had access to full application forms including employment history. Applicants were also asked to bring their complete portfolio to interview.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many foundation year 2 and senior house officer posts are funded, by speciality, in each of the Northern Ireland hospitals; [133697]

(2) how many foundation year 2 posts he expects to be funded, by speciality, in each of the Northern Ireland hospitals in August. [133698]

Paul Goggins: It is expected that 844 SHO training posts will be funded in total. This includes 231 Foundation 2 and 96 GP posts.

A breakdown of specialities and hospitals based on August 2006 baseline figures will be placed in the Library.

Doctors: Training

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are taken to ensure that junior doctors (Foundation Year 2 and Senior House Officer) working in paediatrics complete a certified paediatric life support course before being on call in Northern Ireland. [133701]

Paul Goggins: If, under local clinical governance arrangements, the completion of a certified life support course is a requirement for Foundation year 2 and Senior House Officers working in paediatrics, this should be supported by the Trust.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the ratio of speciality training to fixed term speciality training appointments is by speciality in Northern Ireland. [133704]

Paul Goggins: The current ratio of speciality training posts to fixed term speciality training posts is set out in the following table. These figures will be subject to further change through the reallocation of 20 fixed term speciality training posts to GP training posts.

Speciality	*Speciality training posts*	*Fixed term speciality training posts*	*Ratio*
Acute care	26	22	1:1.18
Anaesthetics	22	0	—
General Practice	67	0	—
General Medicine	98	67	1:1.46
Obs and Gynae	22	27	0.8:1
Ophthalmology	7	2	3.5:1
Oral and Maxillo-facial surgery	1	0	—
Paediatrics	40	18	2.22:1
Pathology	6	0	—
Psychiatry in General	45	26	1:1.73
Radiology	6	0	—
Surgery	43	68[1]	1:58:1
Neurosurgery	3	1	1:0.33
Total	386	231	1:1.67

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to ensure that electronic signatures are verified before assessments are entered on the online NHS eportfolio for junior doctors in Northern Ireland. [133707]

Paul Goggins: An eportfolio is individually password protected and Trainees are also required to sign a probity declaration.

Driving Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many drivers in Northern Ireland have been *(a)* issued with fixed penalty fines for excess speed, *(b)* prosecuted for excess speed, *(c)* involved in fatal road traffic accidents and *(d)* prosecuted as a result of being involved in a road traffic accident in the last 12 months. [133234]

Paul Goggins: PSNI have provided the information in the following table which relates to drivers issued with fixed penalty fines and those drivers reported for prosecution for excess speed in 2006. A total of 173[1] drivers were involved in fatal road traffic accidents in this same period. However, the PSNI does not specifically record the number of drivers prosecuted as a result of being involved in a road traffic collision.

[1] 2006 figures are provisional and subject to change

Excess speed	2006
Received fixed penalty	21,697
Reported for prosecution	3,894

Further Education: Internet

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what records he keeps of the number of people in Northern Ireland enrolled on online further education courses. [133898]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Employment and Learning does not keep records specifying the number of students enrolled on online further education courses. It is not a mandatory requirement by the Department for further education colleges in Northern Ireland to provide information specifically related to students studying online courses; and colleges in Northern Ireland do not hold definitive data relating to this.

Health Professions: Training

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost has been of the generic skills study days organised by the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency. [133693]

Paul Goggins: The cost of the generic skills study days came to £68,610, which was met within existing NIMDTA resources.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost has been of introducing the online NHS eportfolio website in Northern Ireland. [133694]

Paul Goggins: There was no cost to Northern Ireland in introducing NHS eportfolio, as it was provided free.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many speciality training posts at *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third year he expects to be available by speciality in each Northern Ireland hospital in August. [133699]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Speciality	ST1	ST2	ST3	ST4	Speciality training posts
Acute care	12	8	6	—	26
Anaesthetics	9	0	13	—	22
General practice	55	5	7	—	67
General medicine	32	29	37	—	98
Obs and gynae	8	8	6	—	22
Ophthalmology	1	2	4	—	7
Oral and maxillo-facial surgery	1	—	—	—	1
Paediatrics	10	10	10	10	40
Pathology	6	—	—	—	6
Psychiatry in general	12	12	12	9	45
Radiology	6	—	—	—	6
Surgery	12	13	18	—	43
Neurosurgery	1	—	—	2	3
Total	165	87	113	21	386

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many fixed term speciality training appointments at *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third year he expects to be available, by speciality, in each Northern Ireland hospital in August. [133700]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Speciality	ST1	ST2	ST3	Fixed term speciality training posts
Acute care	10	12	—	22
Anaesthetics	—	—	—	0
General practice	—	—	—	0
General medicine	31	36	—	67
Obs and gynae	14	13	—	27
Ophthalmology	—	2	—	2
Oral and maxillo-facial surgery	—	—	—	0
Paediatrics	4	6	8	18
Pathology	—	—	—	0
Psychiatry in general	7	9	10	26
Radiology	—	—	—	0
Surgery	19	49	—	68
Neurosurgery	—	1	—	1
Total	85	128	18	231

Mentally Ill: Convictions

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of those convicted of criminal offences in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years were sentenced by mental health order disposals. [133129]

Mr. Hanson: The mental health order disposal available in the criminal courts is the hospital order. The following table gives the number of hospital order disposals and the total number of disposals for those convicted, for the calendar years 2001 to 2005. Due to small numbers the percentage of those sentenced by hospital orders has not been calculated.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table: Number of hospital orders and total number of disposals given 2001 to 2005[1,2]

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Number of hospital order disposals	1	3	2	2	6
Total number of disposals	24,350	24,100	26,675	27,925	26,255

[1] Data are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.
[2] Data for 2005 are provisional.

Official Publications

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* findings and *(b)* recommendations were of the review conducted by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of practice across Departments on the printing and distribution of Government publications. [134079]

Mr. Hanson: Following the implementation of the cross-departmental policy on the use of recycled paper and the adoption of an electronic print policy in October 2005 officials from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister performed an informal impact review of the use of recycled paper and the electronic distribution of Government publications. This showed there will be an initial increase in cost but ultimately these will reduce and that there will be a positive environmental impact. On this basis a report is being drafted which will recommend the continuation of the use of recycled paper and electronic publishing in all Government Departments.

Olympic Games: Greater London

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations he has made within Government in the last 12 months about securing benefits to Northern Ireland from the 2012 Olympics. [133624]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) is the lead Northern Ireland Department to ensure Northern Ireland benefits from the potential opportunities that will arise from London hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.

The DCAL Permanent Secretary chairs an Olympic NI Task Force, which consists of representatives from other Government Departments and organisations responsible for delivering the benefits. This Group has met on four occasions over the last 12 months. DCAL works in close partnership with the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), the lead Government Department and with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG).

Schools: Playing Fields

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many school playing fields there were in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [133068]

Maria Eagle: The Education and Library Boards have provided the following information for the number of playing fields at controlled and maintained schools. Information relating to voluntary grammar, grant-maintained integrated and Irish medium schools is not readily available.

Board Area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Belfast	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	53	53	53
Southern	152	152	153	154	154	154	153	153	153	153	153
Western	84	87	90	90	90	89	86	84	84	80	80
North Eastern	121	121	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	116	114
South Eastern	78	78	73	73	73	74	76	76	76	76	76

Sportsgrounds: Lisburn

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on the Maze stadium project to date; how much has been spent on *(a)* scoping, *(b)* feasibility and *(c)* promotion of the Maze stadium project; how much will be spent in total on site clearance; which Departments approved this expenditure; and whether such expenditure came from within existing departmental expenditure limits. [134071]

Mr. Hanson: To date Government and the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) have spent £916,855.38 on the proposed multi-sports stadium project at the Maze/Long Kesh. These costs include £124,727.53 on business planning which incorporate both *(a)* scoping and *(b)* feasibility. From 2004 to the end of this financial year, the Office of First and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) will have spent some £2.9 million on site clearance, demolition, and decontamination to prepare the Maze/Long Kesh regeneration site for redevelopment. No costs have been incurred on promotion of the stadium. These expenditures were approved by the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) and OFMDFM and are within their existing departmental expenditure limits.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what evaluation was made of the financial feasibility of the Maze stadium project; and if he will place in the Library the report of such evaluation. [134073]

Mr. Hanson: A viability assessment of a shared future multi-sports stadium for Northern Ireland was completed in May 2004. This concluded that the stadium could be operationally viable provided initial capital costs are met and the three sports bodies (Soccer, Rugby and Gaelic) agree to participate.

A copy of this report will be placed in the Library when final agreement has been reached with the three sports bodies and the business case for the stadium has been approved.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether a study was undertaken to assess the viability of alternative sites to the Maze for a regional multi-purpose sports stadium. [134127]

Mr. Hanson: A site selection evaluation exercise carried out in 2004 considered the viability of 12 sites for a shared future multi-sports stadium for Northern Ireland. Following this process, three sites were shortlisted for further, more detailed assessment. On the basis of this, two of the three remaining sites were ruled out on cost and acceptability grounds. This was announced in a press release in March 2005.

Sure Start Programme

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to implement the recommendations of (*a*) the Sure Start funding bid and (*b*) the South Down Family Health Initiative findings. [133334]

Maria Eagle: The information is as follows:

(*a*) The expansion of Sure Start is underway. Seven new projects have been created and 19 existing projects have expanded their catchment areas. Most expansions are operational, with the remainder in the process of recruitment of additional staff. Of the new projects, five have commenced delivery of services, and it is expected that the remainder will be operational later in 2007.

(*b*) In relation to the South Down family health initiative findings, since the report's publication, a part-time project worker has been appointed and a number of local projects have received support from a range of sources. Further funding will be based on an assessment of local priorities and affordability.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received from non-governmental organisations on individual producer responsibility and the transposition of article 8.2 of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [134384]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 27 April 2007]*: The DTI's consultation in July 2006 prompted 15 responses from non-government organisations on the issue of producer responsibility and Individual producer responsibility.

The Government are committed to the principles of Individual Producer Responsibility (IPR) and will continue to work with producers of EEE to establish a workable and cost effective process for IPR in the UK.

The Government will also be considering how IPR is being addressed by other member states as part of the review of the WEEE Directive by the European Commission due to begin in 2008.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on the implementation of article 8.2 of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [134385]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 27 April 2007]*: DTI representatives have discussed article 8.2 of the WEEE Directive which introduces individual producer responsibility with the EU on several occasions as part of the UK's implementation process.

DTI officials will continue to address this issue with the Commission and other member states as part of the review of the Directive scheduled to begin in 2008.

Energy Supply: Complaints

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if he will hold discussions with Ofgem on British Gas Services' setting up of a complaints handling service that is available to the public; [133992]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that energy suppliers have effective and transparent complaints procedures. [133993]

Malcolm Wicks: The Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Bill, which is currently before Parliament, would place a duty on the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) to make regulations to prescribe standards for the handling of complaints by regulated suppliers in the energy sector. Regulated energy suppliers will thus be obliged, at the very least, to have in place the prescribed standards of complaints handling. The Bill will also introduce new redress schemes for electricity, gas and postal services, which will be able to resolve the full range of consumer complaints in these sectors and make provision for customer redress, including, where appropriate, the payment of compensation.

Customers currently have access to a complaint-handling service operated by Energywatch if they are unable to resolve a dispute directly with their gas and electricity supplier. Customers may also contact the Energy Supply Ombudsman, which can resolve complaints in respect of problems encountered with billing or changing supplier.

Low Carbon Buildings Scheme

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much money has been (*a*) allocated for grants and (*b*) disbursed by the Low Carbon Buildings Scheme in each month since the scheme began. [131693]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The information is as follows:

Month	*Allocated*	£ *Disbursed*
2006		
May	118,609.94	0
June	400,809.37	1,600.00
July	796,790.76	4,000.00

Month	Allocated	£ Disbursed
August	617,351.89	82,205.44
September	693,352.60	81,379.50
October	1,227,293.12	243,359.07
November	1,227,385.73	298,575.68
December	490,893.77	302,001.19
2007		
January	493,267.92	390,058.92
February	464,699.72	551,966.42
March	647,304.95	594,249.85

Pregnant Women: Discrimination

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1317W, on pregnant women: discrimination, if he will place in the Vote Office copies of the Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain Survey 2005; how members of the public may obtain copies; at what cost; how much it cost his Department to produce the report; what follow up his Department plans to make on the report; how many officials were employed in drafting the report, broken down by grade; and if he will make a statement. [134460]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not intend to place the report in the Vote Office, however it will arrange for a copy to be lodged in the Libraries of the House. The Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents 2005 is publicly available on the Department of Trade and Industry's website. The direct link to the report is: http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file27446.pdf and the link to the Employment Relations Research Series, in which this publication is number 50, is http://www.dti.gov.uk/employment/research-evalution/errs/. Hard copies of the report are available, free of charge, from the Department's publications order-line—0845 015 0010 and quoting the Unique Reference Number (URN) 06/836.

The cost of conducting the survey was shared with the Department for Work and Pensions. The contribution made by the Department of Trade and Industry for conducting the survey, analysis and to produce the report was approximately £150,000. The Department will consider commissioning a follow-up survey in future years to assess the impact of recent legislative change on maternity and paternity rights. The survey report was drafted by Deborah Smeaton and Alan Marsh of the Policy Studies Institute, an independent research institute which was commissioned by the Department. No officials were employed in the drafting of the report.

Thorp

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the safety implications associated with the re-opening of the Thorp reprocessing plant; and if he will make a statement. [131172]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: The Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate issued a Consent on 9 January 2007 to allow the THORP plant to reopen—satisfied that the site licensee had done all work necessary to ensure THORP could be restarted safely. The precise date to restart reprocessing fuel at THORP is a matter for the licensee—Sellafield Ltd. in discussion with the site owner the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

Wind Power: Air Traffic Control

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the representations of NATS (En-route) plc in respect of the proposed Brenig wind farm. [134168]

Malcolm Wicks: As no application for consent under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 has been lodged in respect of the proposed Brenig wind farm, no such assessment has been made.

TRANSPORT

Compulsory Purchase: Flimwell

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to purchase the Weald Smokery in Flimwell under a compulsory purchase order. [134780]

Dr. Ladyman: Draft orders for the A21 schemes have not yet been published, so no properties are currently subject to compulsory purchase. However, the owner of the Weald Smokery has served a Statutory Blight Notice on the Secretary of State and this has been accepted. The property is therefore to be acquired under the blight provisions contained in Section 154(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Departments: Translation Services

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) into which languages *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies translates official documents and publications. [134656]

(2) how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies spent on translation services in each of the last 10 years. [134657]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Dudley North, (Mr. Austin) of 23 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1681-82W.

Manual for Streets

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Manual for Streets replaces the Places, Streets and Movements and Design Bulletin 32 documents in all circumstances where Places, Streets and Movements and Design Bulletin 32 have been used prior to the publication of Manual for Streets; and if he will make a statement. [134889]

Gillian Merron: The Manual for Streets replaces Places, Streets and Movement and Design Bulletin 32 for the design of residential streets. Places, Streets and Movement and Design Bulletin 32 were intended for residential roads and footpaths although may have been more widely applied. As with the guidance it replaces, Manual for Streets applies to residential streets. However the manual states that many of its key principles may be applicable to other types of streets, for example high streets and lightly-trafficked lanes in rural areas. It is the responsibility of users of the manual to ensure that its application to the design of non-residential streets is appropriate.

Railways: Hastings

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to change *(a)* the timetabling and *(b)* the frequency of train services along the Hastings to Charing Cross line; and if he will make a statement. [134785]

Mr. Tom Harris: The franchise agreement with London and South Eastern Railway, the train operator for Kent services, requires the provision of services on the Hastings to Charing Cross route with characteristics similar to those that exist today. The detail of the timetable necessary to fulfil that contractual obligation is a matter for the train operator to agree with Network Rail.

Roads: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there were in Darlington (i) involving drivers aged under 21 years and (ii) in total in each of the last 10 years. [135016]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of reported personal injury road accidents and the resulting number of fatalities (i) involving drivers aged under 21 years, and (ii) in total, in the unitary authority of Darlington for each year since 1996 are given in the table. 2005 is the latest year for which data are available.

(i) Accidents in the unitary authority of Darlington involving at least one driver under the age of 21 and resulting fatalities GB 1996-2005

	(a) Accidents	(b) Fatalities
1996	90	3
1997	81	3
1998	92	2
1999	85	0
2000	86	0
2001	77	0
2002	78	1
2003	82	0
2004	72	1
2005	75	0

(ii) Accidents and resulting fatalities in the unitary authority of Darlington GB 1996-2005

	(a) Accidents	(b) Fatalities
1996	374	10
1997	394	5
1998	398	6
1999	367	5
2000	361	1
2001	355	3
2002	373	8
2003	343	3
2004	340	5
2005	325	5

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Courts: Manpower

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of the turnover of staff in the court system in each of the last three years. [134164]

Ms Harman: The turnover rate for staff in Her Majesty's courts service for the last two years is as follows:

1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006—9 per cent.

1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007—9 per cent.

In the year prior to April 2005 the turnover rate for the court service excluding magistrates courts was:

1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005—5 per cent.

There are no centrally held figures for the magistrates prior to the creation of HMCS. The 42 Magistrates Committees maintained their own HR records. The cost of obtaining figures prior to April 2005 can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by her Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134058]

Ms Harman: My Department has a single contract for office supplies that operates across all business areas. Under this arrangement the percentage breakdown of paper used for photocopying obtained from recycled sources in each of the last three years is set out as follows.

	Recycled paper percentage
2004-05	16.57
2005-06	21.88
2006-07	33.09

My Department obtains printed publications from variety of sources. Figures on percentage breakdown of paper used in printed publications from recycled stock over the past three years have not been held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fines: Compensation

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discretion magistrates have in implementing the victims' surcharge when the sentence is a fine. [134421]

Ms Harman: Magistrates have no discretion in implementing the victims' surcharge when the sentence is a fine. They have a duty under section 161A(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to impose a surcharge. By virtue of the Surcharge Order it must be imposed in all cases where the sentence is a fine, whether or not any other penalty is imposed.

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs who is responsible for *(a)* notification and *(b)* collection of the victims' surcharge; what estimate has been made of the cost of collecting each victims' surcharge; what funds have been allocated for the collection of the surcharge; and to which budget they have been allocated. [134422]

Ms Harman: The court which imposes the victims' surcharge is responsible for notification of the surcharge. Collecting the surcharge is the responsibility of the magistrates court, in the same way that they currently collect other financial impositions. As the courts are using existing systems, process and legislation (fines collection scheme) and the victims' surcharge is being treated in the same way as a fine for the purposes of enforcement, there are no additional implementation costs for this Department.

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what representations she has received on the victims' surcharge since its introduction. [134423]

Ms Harman: The Department has passed any representations received on the victims' surcharge to the Home Office to respond to as they have lead policy responsibility for the issue. We do not keep a log of representations passed on this way.

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions her Department had with *(a)* magistrates and *(b)* court clerks before the introduction of the victims' surcharge; and if she will make a statement. [134424]

Ms Harman: The Department consulted with the Magistrates' Association and Justices' Clerks' Society on the implementation of the victims' surcharge. The surcharge was discussed by the DCA's Criminal Enforcement Policy Advisory Group where the Justices' Clerks' Society and Magistrates' Association were represented. Both organisations went on to jointly produce guidance for justices' clerks and magistrates on the application of the surcharge.

Members: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Castle Point of 30 March on Mrs. Wendy Gillespie. [134366]

Vera Baird: My Department has no record of receiving your letter of 30 March. However, my officials are preparing a response to your earlier related letter of 6 March. I apologise for the delay.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 342W, on the community legal service, when she expects to provide a substantive reply to the Question; and what the reason is for the delay. [134367]

Vera Baird: My reply to the hon. Member on 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 342W, referred him to the list of highest paid barristers receiving fees out of the Community Legal Service during 2004-05. These were the latest figures available at the time the hon. Member tabled his question.

Equivalent information for 2005-06 has now been verified with the barristers concerned and this will appear on my Department's website shortly. I will notify the hon. Member once it has been made available.

Ministry of Justice: Manpower

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps have been taken to train Home Office staff who will transfer to the Ministry of Justice following its creation. [134352]

Vera Baird: Staff from the Home Office and Department for Constitutional Affairs transferring to the Ministry of Justice will continue to carry out their usual functions on and immediately after its creation on 9 May. We will be working with colleagues from the Home Office to determine what training and information they will need to support them through the change. DCA has experience of transferring large groups of staff from the creation of HM Courts Service in 2005 and The Tribunals Service in 2006. Information will be communicated through the departmental intranet, including regularly updated FAQ pages.

Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Francois: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what payments her Department has made to *(a)* Opinion Leader Research and *(b)* Deborah Mattinson in each year since 1997. [133716]

Vera Baird: The Department has only made payments to Opinion Leader Research and are detailed as follows:

	£
1997 to 2004-05	0
2005-06	76,316
2006-07	77,154

Sentencing

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will publish information on judges to allow comparison of their sentencing for the same offences. [132253]

Ms Harman: There are no plans to enable analysis of sentences by individual judge. It would not be possible to analyse the sentencing decisions of individual judges in such a way as to allow for any meaningful comparison, as no two offences or offenders are identical. It is the role of the Court of Appeal Criminal Division to ensure consistency of sentencing, either in relation to appeals against sentence or references by the Attorney-General.

Vetting

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average cost is of carrying out a Criminal Records Bureau check. [134166]

Ms Harman: My Department pays fees to the Criminal Records Bureau which carries out the checks. These are currently £31 for a standard disclosure and £36 for an enhanced disclosure. The additional cost of processing checks within my Department is not kept centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Vetting: Training

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average cost was of training officers in the court system to perform Criminal Records Bureau checks in the latest period for which figures are available. [134167]

Ms Harman: My Department currently has 40 staff in its Human Resources Directorate who are trained in assessing criminal records information received from the Criminal Records Bureau. These are supported by administrative staff who have been trained in the checks process. These staff perform criminal records checks duties as part of their job roles. The cost of training these staff is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Climate Change

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with international counterparts on climate change. [134039]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have just returned from China where my meetings with Premier Wen and State Councillor Tang included discussion on the importance of international co-operation on climate change. I also presented a proposal for Sino-UK collaboration in creating sustainable cities, launched phase II of the UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue and delivered three keynote speeches on sustainability and climate change to international audiences.

Earlier in April, I launched the British Embassy / British Council climate change campaign "Opportunity through Action" in Prague with keynote speeches at a dinner debate and a youth conference. I engaged Czech Prime Minister Topolanek, and Deputy Prime Ministers Bursik and Vondra on the subject of climate change during separate bilateral meetings and later that week I discussed similar issues with Maltese Prime Minister Gonzi and President Adami.

Departments: EC Action

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many EU Council meetings he has attended; and who represents him if he is unable to attend. [133754]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Ministers and civil servants attend many meetings as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the normal practice of Government to disclose details or attendance at such meetings. However, I can state that the British Government is always represented at EU Council meetings.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Council Tax

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 130W, on the armed forces: council tax, what options are being considered; when he expects to publish his proposals; and what powers there are to ensure that his proposals are implemented across the United Kingdom. [133164]

Derek Twigg: We are discussing with Communities and Local Government both statutory and non-statutory options for providing support for the council tax costs in England of service personnel deployed on operations abroad. We wish to find a solution to this as soon as possible.

Any decision to implement a statutory council tax discount scheme in Wales and Scotland, or a new domestic rate relief in Northern Ireland would be entirely a matter for the Welsh Assembly, Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Assembly.

Armed Forces: Footwear

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what type of footwear is issued to members of the armed forces as *(a)* part of their standard kit and *(b)* when deployed to operations in Iraq; where this footwear is sourced from; and if he will make a statement. [133465]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 24 April 2007]*: Footwear supplied to the armed forces is of the following types: Combat; Parade/Ceremonial; and Safety Footwear. The standard issue footwear as part of the Combat Soldier 95 ensemble is the Combat Assault Boot.

Troops deploying on operations in Iraq are issued with Desert Combat Boots. Lightweight patrol boots are also available depending on the duties being undertaken in theatre.

Most footwear is sourced through the prime contractor, Iturri, a Spanish footwear manufacturer.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the lifetime of footwear issued to members of the armed forces; how often new footwear is issued to members of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [133466]

Mr. Ingram: The life expectancy of footwear varies between each type depending on use and conditions. In broad terms the expectation is: Combat Boots should last between one and five years (although Jungle Boots and Desert Boots may only have a life of six weeks or six months respectively); Parade/Ceremonial Boots are repairable and can last from one to five years plus; Safety Footwear six months to two years.

When boots are no longer serviceable or there has been a change in the users' needs, replacement boots can be obtained or requested from the Unit Quartermasters both in the UK and overseas.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what tests were conducted as part of the procurement procedure of the footwear issued to members of the armed forces; what *(a)* temperature, *(b)* weather and *(c)* terrain conditions were used as part of these tests; and if he will make a statement. [133467]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* When new footwear requirements, designs and materials are introduced, they are subjected to laboratory testing and trials in the locations and conditions for which the item has been designed. The new version of the desert combat boot, introduced in March 2006, is a modification of the existing design, which has been in use since around 2000. Testing in this case was therefore limited to that done in the laboratory.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the monthly expenditure on footwear for members of the armed forces was in *(a)* 1999 and *(b)* 2006; and if he will make a statement. [133468]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* The current five-year enabling arrangement for supplying footwear to the armed forces was awarded in 2004. The estimated value of the contract is between £8 million and £9 million per year.

The information prior to 2004 is not held centrally and could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what ring-fenced capacity in each speciality his Department requested from the Department of Health in each year since 2001; and what the cost of this capacity was. [132629]

Derek Twigg: There is no 'ring fenced' capacity but the MOD has negotiated accelerated access to hospital assessment and treatment from the five Ministry of Defence Hospital Units (MDHU) host trusts and the University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust (UHBFT). The cost of this delivery in 2006-07 was just under £30 million.

The historic figures for the MDHU spend on accelerated access are as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	22.4
2002-03	23.7
2003-04	25.1
2004-05	26.8
2005-06	27.5
2006-07	29.8

Furthermore, MOD and the Department of Health have agreed an integrated plan for reception arrangements for military patients (RAMP), to manage the reception of injured military personnel in NHS hospitals. This covers the reporting of patients, their medical reception, movement, tracking, care and administration within the NHS.

The military managed ward (MMW) located in the orthopaedic/trauma ward in Selly Oak hospital (part of UHBFT) provides clinical care, by a combined team of military and civilian personnel, for military patients whose clinical condition allows for them to be nursed in this ward.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian medical personnel assisted in the provision of medical support on military operations overseas in each year since 2001, broken down by operation. [132851]

Derek Twigg: The number of individual civilian medical personnel who have been employed on operations overseas in each calendar year is shown in the following table:

	Operation			
	Oculus	*Balkans*	*Telic*	*Iraq*
2001		—		—
2002		—		—
2003		1		—
2004		4		6
2005		1		11
2006		—		21

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has held with *(a)* the Local Government Association, *(b)* veterans' associations, *(c)* the Gurkha Welfare Association and *(d)* others on the housing needs resulting from army discharges. [130526]

Derek Twigg: Discussions take place regularly with the Department for Communities and Local Government and other interested parties, these include a quarterly meeting involving representatives from the

veterans' and wider charitable organisations. I met with my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Local Government and Community Cohesion (Mr. Woolas) on 13 March to discuss housing issues. Recent discussions have covered a wide range of subjects including veterans' homelessness projects of current interest and research into levels of homelessness among veterans and the measures to address these.

There have been no recent direct discussions with the Local Government Association or Gurkha specific charitable organisations.

Armed Forces: Inheritance Tax

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether inheritance tax is payable on the estate of service personnel who are killed *(a)* on active service and *(b)* on overseas service outside the theatre of war; [132854]

(2) under what circumstances inheritance tax is waived on the estate of service people killed in the line of duty. [132855]

Derek Twigg: Under S154 of the Inheritance Tax Act 1984, liability to inheritance tax does not apply in relation to the death of service personnel, where the Secretary of State for Defence, or the Defence Council, certifies that the individual died from a wound inflicted, accident occurring, or disease contracted, either on active service against an enemy, or on other service of a warlike nature. This includes current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Should an individual die from an injury or disease contracted at some previous time, with death being due to, or hastened by, the aggravation of the injury or illness which occurred during a period when the aforementioned conditions applied, then consideration is given on a case-by-case basis to granting an exemption from a liability to inheritance tax.

As part of the assistance provided to bereaved families, the MOD Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) considers whether the circumstances of a death of anyone currently serving in the armed forces allows an exemption from inheritance tax and, where appropriate, provide the executor or family member with a certificate of exemption which can be passed to the relevant tax office.

For claims arising as a result of injuries or illness sustained in previous conflicts or in retirement, applications for an exemption have to be made to the JCCC by the executor/next of kin following the death of the individual concerned.

Armed Forces: Military Aircraft

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Lockheed WP-3D Orion aircraft he plans to purchase for the *(a)* Royal Air Force and *(b)* Royal Navy. [134330]

Mr. Ingram: The WP-3D variant of the US Lockheed Orion aircraft family was developed for the US Government as a weather research aircraft. There are no plans to procure any of these aircraft for the Royal Navy or Royal Air Force.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to implement the proposal in Early Day Motion 67 that all ex-servicemen and women should be treated equally in the payment of pensions regardless of when they served in Her Majesty's armed forces. [133648]

Derek Twigg: The situation remains as set out by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Ingram) on 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 337-40, during the adjournment debate secured by my hon. Friend the Member for Morley and Rothwell (Mr. Challen).

BAE Systems

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many meetings his private office has had with representatives of BAE Systems in the last 12 months; and what was discussed at each such meeting. [129443]

Mr. Ingram: Over the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, officials from the Private Office of the Minister for Defence Equipment and Support held a total of 12 meetings with representatives of BAE Systems. These meetings were to make arrangements for, or follow up on, actions from meetings between the Minister and BAES management. No other MOD ministerial Private Office staff met representatives of BAES Systems in this period.

Bell 212 Helicopters

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Bell 212 helicopters are in service with the British Army; and in which theatres they are deployed. [134201]

Mr. Ingram: There are seven Bell 212 helicopters in service with the British Army, which are leased to the MOD under a civil owned military registered (COMR) contract. Of these, three are used by 7 Flt AAC in support of Brunei garrison and three by 25 Flt AAC in support of the British Army training support unit in Belize. There is an additional Bell 212 based at the School of Army Aviation (SAAvn) in Middle Wallop for aircrew training.

Bombs

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cluster bombs or their equivalents *(a)* are in the ownership of the Government and *(b)* have been ordered and have yet to be delivered; what will happen to these stocks; and if he will make a statement. [131397]

Mr. Ingram: I am withholding details about current and future in-service cluster munitions stock levels because its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

As my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Defence announced in his written ministerial statement

on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 36-37WS, we have withdrawn two types of cluster munitions, the RBL 755 and the MLRS M26, from service with immediate effect. Stocks of these munitions will undergo disposal. The disposal of other cluster munitions that have also been withdrawn from service (155mm HE M483, BL 755 and IBL 755) will continue. No further stocks of these munitions have been ordered.

Holdings of cluster munitions that have been withdrawn from service and are awaiting disposal, rounded to the nearest 100, are:

	Quantity
BL 755 (including the RBL 755 and the IBL 755) bombs	2,500
MLRS M26 rocket pods	7,200
HE M483 shells	16,900
HE M483 shells (unfused/incomplete)	2,400

Defence and Communications Services Agency

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the technical apprenticeships programme in the Defence and Communication Services Agency was wound down; and if he will make a statement. [133007]

Derek Twigg: The DEandS Information Systems and Services—formerly the Defence Communications Services Agency—has run a three-year modern technical apprenticeship scheme since 2003. The scheme, which is delivered at HMS Collingwood in Hampshire, is designed to equip those successfully completing it with the skills and attributes required of the organisation's future technical managers. This scheme continues.

Once HMS Collingwood was established, the previous legacy schemes run at Royal Air Force Henlow in Bedfordshire and at Highbury college, Portsmouth, which the Agency acquired in 2000, were discontinued in 2005 as they no longer provided the training and development necessary for technical staff working increasingly closely with commercial delivery partners.

Defence Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Defence dental service officers were based *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* abroad, including those deployed on operations, in each of the last five years. [132623]

Derek Twigg: The numbers of Defence dental service officers are shown in the following table, as at 1 April in the year stated:

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
UK					
Military	218	198	198	198	200
Civilian	42	42	42	42	42
Abroad					
Military	52	52	52	52	50
Civilian	11	11	11	11	11

No civilian dental practitioners are deployed on operations. The uniformed Defence Dental Service Officers deployed on operations are drawn from the total cadre based in the UK and abroad as shown above. The numbers deployed on operations overseas in each calendar year were:

	Operations
2002	12
2003	44
2004	36
2005	36
2006	48

Defence Medical Service

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many absences of Defence medical service staff were recorded at each Ministry of Defence hospital unit headquarters in each year since 2001; and what the reasons were for such absences. [132628]

Derek Twigg: Defence Medical Services personnel employed in the five MOD hospital units may be absent from those units because they are undertaking military operational duties or training, or are on leave, or for other reasons. All absences are approved and recorded as necessary. However, the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* uniformed and *(b)* civilian personnel work in (i) his Department's main building, (ii) the Old War Office Building and (iii) St. George's Court. [130588]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 29 March 2007]*: The information requested is set out in the following table. The numbers relate to MOD military and civil service personnel permanently deployed to the respective buildings as at 1 April 2007. These figures can change on a day to day basis, and do not include contractor personnel or staff temporarily operating out of these buildings.

	Military personnel	*Civilian personnel*	*Total*
Main building	1,024	2,206	3,230
Old War Office building	272	637	909
St. George's Court	116	674	790
Total	1,412	3,517	4,929

Departments: Money

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much cash was physically lost by his Department in each of the last 10 financial years for which information is available. [134504]

Mr. Ingram: The amount of cash and cash equivalents (e.g. bank notes, postal orders, stamps and travel warrants) physically lost by the Department within the last three years is:

	£
2003-04	93,074.51
2004-05	7,438.06
2005-06	154,683.27

Information on cash losses prior to 2003-04 is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Parliamentary Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to his Department for oral answer have been transferred to other departments since May 2005. [133806]

Derek Twigg: Our records indicate that two oral questions tabled to this Department have been transferred since May 2005.

Electoral Commission

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer by the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, of 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 261-62W, on annual canvass: armed forces, if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the evaluation of the campaign. [134502]

Derek Twigg: Evaluation of the survey carried out to monitor registration levels and awareness among service personnel is not yet complete. I will place a copy of the report in the Library of the House when it becomes available.

Falkland Islands: Armed Conflict

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to assist *(a)* the funding of and *(b)* practical arrangements for events held by servicemen and women to mark the 25th anniversary of the Falklands war. [132848]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave, on the funding of events to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Falklands conflict, on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 857W, to the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle).

In addition to the national commemorative events in June that my Department is organising, the armed forces are providing practical support in the form of hosting or supporting a number of other events that are being arranged around the country.

Military Aircraft: Procurement

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1671W, on military aircraft procurement, whether the four Britten Norman Defender aircraft are still deployed in Iraq. [134200]

Mr. Ingram: It is not appropriate to comment on equipment currently deployed on operations as to do so could compromise operational security and the safety of service personnel.

Royal School of Military Engineering: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for the delays encountered during the Royal School of Military Engineering Private Finance Initiative contract negotiations; what impact the delay in signing the contract has had on the training of military engineers; and what measures are being taken to ensure that contract signatures for similar projects are not delayed. [133341]

Derek Twigg: Work is ongoing to identify a solution for the Department that provides best value for money and is technically viable, on conclusion of which, the project, subject to successful completion of negotiations, is expected to proceed to contract award in the first half of 2008.

The Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) continues to deliver well-trained and motivated military engineers to meet the operational requirements of the armed forces. This output has not been affected by the ongoing RSME Project.

Royal Yacht: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to remove the cost of the upkeep of the Royal Yacht from the public purse; and if he will make a statement. [134515]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 161W.

Service Accommodation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 512-13W, on service accommodation, for what reason single living accommodation is not assessed for standard for condition. [134625]

Derek Twigg: When single living accommodation (SLA) is assessed in respect of its grade for charge the process specifically includes an assessment of the

physical condition of the property; along with other aspects including, scale, environment and location.

Currently, this information is not assembled centrally into "standard for condition" statistics in the same way as for service family accommodation. The Department is, however, looking at the scope for grading all accommodation on a common basis in the future.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans the Government has to contribute *(a)* personnel, *(b)* hardware and *(c)* finances to the hybrid force proposed for Darfur. [134943]

Mr. Ingram: Discussions between the UN and African Union (AU) on a hybrid force for Darfur continue. The peacekeeping force is expected to be funded by UN assessed contributions, but the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has not yet issued a list of requirements for personnel and equipment. The UK contributes 7.8 per cent. of the UN assessed peacekeeping budget worldwide.

The UK fully supports the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in its peacekeeping role in Darfur. DPKO has undertaken extensive planning for support to AMIS, with one UK military planner deployed to New York to assist. At UN request, MOD has provided two further officers to fill key appointments in the first (light support package) phase of UN deployments. They are now in Sudan. The UK is also considering a UN request to send another officer to DPKO to assist with preparations for the AU-UN hybrid force.

The Department will consider what further support can be provided when the plans for the hybrid force are mature.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Leicestershire

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding his Department plans to allocate to Leicestershire local education authority for the Building Schools for the Future programme. [133709]

Jim Knight: Leicestershire local authority has four Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects, which have been provisionally prioritised for waves 10-12 and waves 13-15 of the programme. Funding for projects in these waves has not yet been allocated.

Leicestershire currently has a phase one 'one-school-pathfinder' project concerning King Edward VII School, which has been allocated £26 million of capital funding.

72 local authorities with 87 projects are included in BSF waves one to six. A further 40 authorities are receiving a single-school project. Together with academies, a total of about 1,000 secondary schools are in line for modernisation.

Children's Centres: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much capital has been *(a)* spent and *(b)* allocated for future years for the development of children's centres in Warrington. [134028]

Beverley Hughes: For the period 2004-06, £961,633 capital was made available to Warrington for the delivery of Sure Start services.

The General Sure Start Grant (GSSG) made available £3,185,235 capital for the period 2006-08 for the delivery of Sure Start children's services.

The CSR settlement gives us an overall spending envelope for 2008-11 which will enable us to deliver our key priorities for children, young people and learners. A specific capital allocation for Warrington will be made later in the year.

City Academies: Comprehensive Schools

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received on the potential impact of city academies on nearby comprehensive schools. [134192]

Jim Knight: Each academy proposal is subject to a formal consultation process during its feasibility stage, and many representations about academy proposals are received, including the potential impact of academies on neighbouring schools.

City Academies: Consultants

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many project consultants have been engaged by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated bodies in the Academy Scheme; by what process consultants are appointed for the Scheme; and how much the Department has spent on such consultants. [133854]

Jim Knight: The Academies programme requires a wide range of skills including some which are outside the core civil service skills. Since the Academies programme began in December 2000 the Department for Education and Skills has spent £20,161,977 on a range of consultancy services for the Academies programme. The Department currently has 46 separate contracts for the provision of consultancy services to the Academies programme including:

- an ongoing independent evaluation of the programme;
- programme management expertise;
- school improvement and intervention;
- background checks to determine the suitability of potential sponsors;
- legal advice, construction procurement expertise

Each Academy project also has an overall project manager who is initially contracted to the Department but whose contract transfers to the individual Academy Trust once the funding agreement is signed. The total cost of these project management services from the start of the programme is £28,338,823. There are now 47 open academies and 90 in the pipeline.

Consultancy services are procured for the Academies programme in accordance with the Departmental Procurement Policy and the EU Procurement Directives.

Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on what evidential basis the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority adopted the approach to the curriculum outlined in the National Curriculum planning guidance and draft supporting materials. [134176]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's (QCA) approach to the curriculum outlined in the National Curriculum planning guidance and supporting materials is built on evidence from ongoing work with schools and colleges. The 'futures in action' programme, which has been running since 2005, has continued to demonstrate a high degree of consensus about many of the characteristics of how the curriculum should be shaped. QCA's work is also supported by the results of its annual curriculum monitoring programme which includes interviews and questionnaires with head teachers, deputy heads, teachers and pupils.

Diplomas for England

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to train teachers to deliver the new Diplomas for England programme; and how much is being spent on such training. [134541]

Jim Knight: The Department has already put in place a broad programme of support to ensure that those teaching the Diplomas—as well as those who will be leading and supporting the changes—will be well equipped to do so. The Department is working in partnership with the Centre for Excellence in Leadership (CEL), Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK), the National Assessment Agency (NAA), the National College for School Leadership (NCSL), the Quality Improvement Agency (QIA), the Secondary National Strategies (SNS), the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT), and the Training and Development Agency (TDA).

Building on the existing skills of the education workforce, the programme provided by QIA and SSAT includes three days of continuing professional development spread through the 2007/08 academic year for leading Diploma practitioners from each consortium of schools and colleges that will teach Diplomas from 2008. Online materials, a training needs analysis tool, an online community and other resources will supplement this training and encourage collaboration between Diploma-teaching institutions. In future some initial teacher training placements will also be tailored specifically to Diploma teaching.

In the financial year 2007-08 my Department has allocated a total of £45 million for the support of the 14 to 19 workforce development programmes.

Education: Leicestershire

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what capital funding he made available to Leicestershire county council in each financial year since 1996-97. [133811]

Jim Knight: Schools capital funding allocated to Leicestershire county council, including direct to schools in its area, in each financial year since 1996-97 is set out in the following table:

	£ million
1996-97	3.6
1997-98	2.9
1998-99	6.5
1999-2000	9.2
2000-01	21.0
2001-02	15.8
2002-03	25.4
2003-04	27.6
2004-05	33.8
2005-06	35.7
2006-07	41.0

Education: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total amount of capital spending on education in Warrington was in each year since 1997. [134027]

Jim Knight: Schools capital funding allocated to Warrington, including direct to schools in its area, in each financial year since it achieved unitary status in 1998, is set out in the following table.

	Amount (£ million)
1998-99	3.7
1999-2000	4.7
2000-01	8.7
2001-02	9.0
2002-03	10.0
2003-04	8.8
2004-05	8.0
2005-06	9.8
2006-07	12.1

GCSEs

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which 200 maintained mainstream schools had the lowest proportion of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs including English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language in 2006. [133461]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The information requested has been placed in the House of Commons Library. Data for all schools was provided in the answer to PQ 112152 on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 298W.

The link to the answer for PQ 112152 giving figures for all schools is at the following address:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/cgi-bin/newhtml_hl?DB=semukparl&STEMMER=en&WORDS=112152&ALL=&ANY=&PHRASE=&CATEGORIES=&SIMPLE=&SPEAKER=&COLOUR=red&STYLE=s&ANCHOR=70416w0063.htm_wqn0&URL=/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070416/text/70416w0063.htm#70416w0063.htm_wqn0

This analysis is based on the revised 2006 KS4 data.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many students achieved five GCSEs at grade C or above including English and mathematics in each year since 1997, excluding those students who achieved grade C equivalent at GNVQ; [133847]

(2) how many students achieved five GCSEs at grade C or above including English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language in each year since 1997, excluding those students who achieved grade C or equivalent at GNVQ; [133866]

(3) how many students achieved five GCSEs at grade C or above including English, mathematics and science in each year since 1997, excluding those students who achieved grade C or equivalent at GNVQ. [133867]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* The following table shows the percentage of 15-year-old pupils[1] achieving five or more GCSEs excluding GNVQs[2] at grades A*-C including the subjects listed in each year since 1997[2].

[1] Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year i.e. 31 August.

[2] At least a pass grade at a full intermediate GNVQ is equivalent to four GCSEs at grades A*-C.

	English and mathematics	*English, mathematics and science*	*Percentage English, mathematics, science and MFL*
1997	35.6	33.2	25.7
1998	36.9	34.3	27.5
1999	38.6	35.7	29.1
2000	39.9	36.9	29.8
2001	40.6	37.6	30.4
2002	41.9	38.6	30.3
2003	41.5	38.5	28.5
2004	42.2	39.0	28.4
2005	43.6	40.3	28.0
2006	44.2	40.4	25.8

Martial Arts: Schools

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his Department's expenditure on promoting martial arts in schools was in each year since 1997. [127411]

Jim Knight: Funding is not allocated on an individual activity or sport basis. In the five years to 2008, the Government have invested an additional £978 million in PE and school sport through the national school sport strategy. Where there is a perceived need, schools and school sport partnerships will allocate resources to martial arts locally.

The percentage of schools in a school sport partnership offering martial arts has risen from 4 per cent. in 2003/04 to 9 per cent . in 2005/06.

Parenting Support

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken to assist local authorities in providing parenting support. [133684]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 26 April 2007]:* Local authorities are central to our ambitions to deliver additional support to parents and we will continue to support and collaborate with them.

On 15 March 2007, we published, "Every Parent Matters", which describes the Government's commitment to support the development of a wide range of services for parents to access, as and when they need it. It makes clear that local authorities will be at the heart of planning and delivering these services locally.

In October 2006 we published "Parenting Support", guidance for local authorities which describes the approach needed to develop a local strategy to provide a continuum of support for all parents. At the same time we launched the Commissioner's Toolkit, a database of parenting programmes including information on what research suggests about the effectiveness of current interventions. This toolkit is designed to equip commissioners to make decisions which better suit the needs of parents in their community. Over 2006-08 local authorities will receive the £7.5 million Parenting Support Strategy Grant. Its purpose is to assist local authorities in developing and implementing a strategic approach to parenting support, and build upon strategic approaches already in place.

We have spent over £2.1 billion establishing and sustaining Sure Start Local Programmes and Children's Centres, since 1999, initially in some of our most disadvantaged areas. Currently there are 1,258 children's centres, providing a range of high quality early learning, health and parental support to a million young children under five and their families. There will be 2,500 centres by 2008, and 3,500 by 2010, one for every community. Additionally, we are establishing extended services for pupils, families and the wider community in all schools across the country. The extended schools core offer includes services providing parenting support, and over 4,500 schools are now delivering the offer. All schools will do so by 2010.

A number of pilots have been developed with local authorities to deliver new ways of supporting parents. The learning from many of these pilots will inform the further roll out of extended schools and Sure Start Children's Centres. For example, Early Learning Partnerships are running in 19 local authorities; targeting hard to reach families and promoting their engagement in early learning for children aged one to

three years. Transition information sessions will be run in 20 local authorities by autumn 2007, preparing parents of children in reception and year seven to cope with the wide range of possible challenges that their children may face. Parent Support Advisers are providing a preventative school based role to support parents in 977 schools in 20 local authorities, and we will look to spread practice widely through extended schools. 15 local authorities have been selected to receive a share of £5 million per annum for 2006-07 and 2007-08 to deliver Parenting Early Intervention Pathfinders—testing different parenting programmes for the families of eight to 13-year-olds at risk of antisocial behaviour. We are investing £10 million per annum to develop the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners. The academy will have a key role in improving practice, training and support for the parenting workforce.

Pre-school Education: Expenditure

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what total amount was spent on *(a)* pre-school education and *(b)* school nursery education in each of the last 20 years, at today's prices. [133353]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The available information is contained within the following table which shows central and local government expenditure on under fives. Separate figures for pre-school education and school nursery education are not available. Capital expenditure is not included in these figures.

	Expenditure
1989-90	1,347
1990-91	1,473
1991-92	1,620
1992-93	1,749
1993-94	1,843
1994-95	1,944
1995-96	1,965
1996-97	2,005
1997-98	2,114
1998-99	2,157
1999-2000	2,399
2000-01	2,683
2001-02	3,232
2002-03	3,291
2003-04	3,657
2004-05[1]	3,920
2005-06[2]	4,010

[1] Provisional.
[2] Estimated.

Notes:
1. Figures within Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL). Excludes DfES administration costs and expenditure on other areas than education, for instance on children and families and on skills. Figures for 1998-99 onwards are resource-based. Central government figures for 1995-96 to 1997-98 are cash-based.
2. Differences between the totals above and the figures for Under 5's education spending in HM Treasury's PESA Report are the result of *(a)* data coverage: the exclusion of AME items in the above table, *(b)* definitional differences: Departmental administration costs and Ofsted spending on education are both classified as education spending under UN Classification of Functions of Government (COFOG) international definitions—the above table excludes these, *(c)* classifications made since Budget 2006 of Connexions spending to social protection and Adult Education spend to training in line with UN COFOG definitions, *(d)* further minor data coverage and timing differences.
3. The recurrent local authority figures in this table are drawn from the Local Authority Expenditure table (Table 8.3 of the 2006 Departmental Report); the footnotes to that table set out the underlying data sources. The blank rows denote the changes from the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions education Revenue Outturn return (the 'RO1') to Section 52 Outturn Statements in 1999-2000 and arising from the review of the Section 52 categories in 2002-03 following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting to schools.
4. All figures have been converted to 2005-06 price levels using the 27 September 2006 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflators.
5. Central Government funding on grant-maintained schools has been apportioned to under-fives using pupil numbers.
6. Figures from 2003-04 onwards reflect the transfer of responsibility from the Department to LEAs of costs relating to teachers' pensions.
7. Under five figures include education expenditure on Sure Start (Sure Start figures exclude current grant).
8. Sources of the figures in the table are as follows: 1997-98 to 2005-06 from the Education Select Committee table, 1995-96 to 1996-97 from the November 2005 Education Bulletin, 1993-94 to 1994-95 from the November 2004 Bulletin, 1989-90 to 1992-93 from the Departmental Reports.

Private Education: Charities

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what criteria will be included in the public benefit test to enable private schools to satisfy the requirements for charitable status. [121943]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 February 2007]:* This is a matter for the Charity Commission as the Government Department responsible for the regulation of charities in England and Wales. The chief executive of the Charity Commission will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

School Exclusions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* children, *(b)* children with special educational needs but no statement and *(c)* children with statemented special educational needs were permanently excluded (i) from mainstream schools, (ii) from special schools, (iii) while on a dual placement scheme, (iv) while on a school action plan, (v) while on early years action plan, (vi) while on school action plus, (vii) while on early years action plus and (viii) while attending a pupil referral unit in each year from 1997 to 2006. [117705]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 30 January 2007]*: The available information relating to permanent exclusions from maintained primary, secondary and all special schools is given in the table.

There are quality issues with data on permanent exclusions from maintained primary, secondary and special schools. A significant number of schools are known to have under-reported the situation. The Department has carried out checking exercises in each year to confirm the overall number of permanent exclusions. However, this only confirmed the number of exclusions in each local authority area and did not include information on the characteristics of the excluded pupil, for example whether or not they have special educational needs. Figures provided in the first table are as reported by schools and are known to be incomplete.

The range of indicators collected on excluded pupils does not include whether they were on dual placement.

Figures provided here refer to the cases of exclusion, rather than the number of pupils excluded as some pupils were excluded more than once during the year.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1, 2]: number of permanent exclusions by special educational needs (SEN) 1997-98 to 2004-05[3]—England

	Maintained primary and secondary schools		*All special schools*	
	Number of permanent exclusions	*Percentage of school population[4]*	*Number of permanent exclusions*	*Percentage of school population[4]*
1997-98				
Pupils with statements of SEN	1,700	1.21	550	0.60
Pupils with SEN without statement and pupils with no SEN	10,030	0.14	20	0.35
Total pupils	11,730	0.16	570	0.58
1998-99				
Pupils with statements of SEN	1,530	1.04	390	0.43
Pupils with SEN without statement and pupils with no SEN	8,460	0.11	40	0.72
Total pupils	10,000	0.13	440	0.45
1999-2000				
Pupils with statements of SEN	1,140	0.75	360	0.39
Pupils with SEN without statements and pupils with no SEN	6,800	0.09	30	0.57
Total pupils	7,940	0.10	380	0.40
2000-01[3, 5]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	540	0.35	n/a	n/a
Pupils with SEN without statements and pupils with no SEN	7,800	0.11	n/a	n/a
Total pupils	8,330	0.11	390	0.41
2001-02[3]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	760	0.51	280	0.31
Pupils with SEN without statements and pupils with no SEN[6]	7,640	0.10	40	0.93
Of which:				
Pupils with no SEN	3,350	0.05	40	0.95
Pupils with SEN without statements[6]	4,290	0.32	*	*
Total pupils	8,400	0.11	320	0.34
2002-03[3]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	680	0.45	250	0.28
Pupils with SEN without statements and pupils with no SEN[6]	7,190	0.09	20	0.49
Of which:				
Pupils with no SEN	2,720	0.04	10	0.98
Pupils with SEN without statements[6]	4,470	0.40	*	
Total pupils	7,870	0.10	270	0.29
2003-04[3]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	720	0.48	230	0.25
Pupils with SEN without statements and pupils with no SEN[6]	8,130	0.11	30	0.99
Of which:				
Pupils with no SEN	3,300	0.05	30	3.18
Pupils at School Action	1,710	0.22	0	0.00
Pupils at School Action Plus	3,130	0.89	*	*

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1]: number of permanent exclusions by special educational needs (SEN) 1997-98 to 2004-05[2]—England

	Maintained primary and secondary schools		All special schools	
	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[4]	Number of permanent exclusions	Percentage of school population[4]
Total pupils[5]	8,850	0.12	260	0.28
2004-05[3]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	570	0.40	210	0.23
Pupils with SEN without statements and pupils with no SEN[6]	7,700	0.10	50	2.01
Of which				
Pupils with no SEN	3,520	0.06	40	10.23
Pupils at School Action	1,580	0.20	0	0.00
Pupils at School Action Plus	2,600	0.71	*	*
Total Pupils[5]	8,270	0.11	250	0.28

* Less than five exclusions, or a rate based on less than five exclusions.
n/a = Not available (due to quality concerns with the data).
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] From 2000-01 onwards there are quality issues with permanent exclusions data. Schools are known to have under-reported the situation. The Department has carried out checking exercises to confirm the overall number of permanent exclusions in each local authority area but this did not extend to the characteristics of excluded pupils (such as SEN). Figures shown here are as reported by schools and are un-confirmed. Caution is recommended when interpreting this output.
[4] The number of excluded pupils by SEN expressed as a percentage of the school population supported by same SEN provision (excluding dually registered pupils).
[5] The SEN data reported by special schools for excluded pupils in 2000/01 is not sufficiently reliable or robust to be included here.
[6] The introduction of the new code of practice means that the number of children with SEN without statements reported in 2000-01 and later are not directly comparable with earlier years.
[7] Totals include those exclusions for which SEN (if any) was not known.

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Schools Census

The first year for which information on exclusions from pupil referral units is available is the 2003-04 academic year. The available information is given in the table.

Pupil referral units: number of permanent exclusions by special educational needs (SEN) 2003-04 and 2004-05—England

	Number of permanent exclusions[1]	Percentage of school population[2]
2003-04		
Pupils with statements of SEN3	10	0.26
Pupils with SEN without statements and pupils with no SEN[3]	30	0.34
Of which		
Pupils with no SEN[3]	20	0.93
Pupils with SEN without statements[3]	10	17
Total pupils[4]	30	0.26
2004-05		
Pupils with statements of SEN[3]	10	0.40
Pupils with EN without statements and pupils with no SEN3	30	0.35
Of which		
Pupils with no SEN[3]	20	0.57
Pupils with SEN without statements [3]	20	0.26
Total pupils[4]	40	0.28

[1] The number of permanent exclusions from Pupil Referral Units is derived from Termly Exclusions Survey returns.
[2] The number of pupils in Pupil Referral Units by stag of SEN (to derive the percentage of school population) is sourced from Schools Census returns.
[3] The school population number includes pupils with sole registration only.
[4] The school population number includes those pupils with sole registration and pupil with other providers.

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey and Schools Census

Schools: Accidents

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many legal actions were brought against local and Central Government authorities as a consequence of accidents in schools in each year since 1997; [133861]

(2) how many legal actions brought against local and Central Government authorities as a consequence of accidents in schools involved *(a)* under-16s and *(b)* under-18s in the last 12 months. [133857]

Jim Knight: We are not aware of any such actions against this Department. The Government do not collect figures on the number of actions brought

against local authorities on accidents in schools, by age or otherwise. Insurers have told Parliament that claims for personal injury in schools are a very small proportion of all such claims to local authorities. Criminal prosecution of a school employer is even rarer.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers experienced physical abuse in their workplace in 2006. [126074]

Jim Knight: The number of assaults on school staff is not collected centrally.

For the academic year 2004/05, information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. These reasons include 'physical assault against an adult'.

A local authority breakdown of the number of pupils who have been excluded from school (permanently or for a fixed period) for physical assault against an adult, together with total numbers of exclusions, is given in the following tables.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1]: permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against an adult and total number of exclusions (all reasons)[2] numbers and rates per 1,000 pupils 2004/05—by local authority area

			Permanent exclusions			
			Exclusions for physical assault against an adult		All permanent exclusions	
		Number of pupils on roll[3]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[4]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[4]
	England[5,6]	7,606,040	1,270	0.17	9,400	1.24
	North East[6]	398,660	90	0.23	480	1.16
841	Darlington	15,404	•	•	34	2.21
840	Durham	75,863	16	0.21	91	1.20
390	Gateshead	28,840	9	0.31	32	1.11
805	Hartlepool	16,035	•	•	22	1.37
806	Middlesbrough	20,165	8	0.40	19	0.94
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	37,260	17	0.46	62	1.66
392	North Tyneside	30,600	4	0.13	27	0.88
929	Northumberland	50,547	9	0.18	72	1.42
807	Redcar and Cleveland	24,083	4	0.17	24	1.00
393	South Tyneside	23,762	12	0.51	44	1.85
808	Stockton-on-Tees	30,857	8	0.26	21	0.68
394	Sunderland	45,241	3	0.07	15	0.33
	North West[6]	1,086,590	240	0.22	1,440	1.33
889	Blackburn with Darwen	24,603	3	0.12	30	1.22
890	Blackpool	21,190	9	0.42	59	2.78
350	Bolton	45,797	6	0.13	62	1.35
351	Bury	28,254	•	•	33	1.17
875	Cheshire	104,163	30	0.29	170	1.63
909	Cumbria	76,831	11	0.14	64	0.83
876	Halton	18,910	•	•	45	2.38
340	Knowsley	26,438	8	0.30	37	1.40
888	Lancashire	173,101	63	0.36	273	1.58
341	Liverpool	73,239	•	•	80	1.09
352	Manchester	65,644	27	0.41	84	1.28
353	Oldham	40,513	7	0.17	39	0.96
354	Rochdale	34,820	4	0.11	39	1.12
355	Salford	32,960	16	0.49	86	2.61
343	Sefton	45,132	5	0.11	33	0.73
342	St. Helens	28,272	0	0.00	4	0.14
356	Stockport	40,944	9	0.22	49	1.20
357	Tameside	36,731	12	0.33	63	1.72
358	Trafford	35,964	•	•	17	0.47
877	Warrington	32,137	6	0.19	45	1.40
359	Wigan	48,712	12	0.25	69	1.42
344	Wirral	52,231	•	•	63	1.21
	Yorkshire and the Humber[6]	806,660	150	0.19	840	1.04
370	Barnsley	34,496	•	•	4	0.12
380	Bradford	86,686	7	0.08	61	0.70

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against an adult and total number of exclusions (all reasons)[3]: numbers and rates per 1,000 pupils 2004/05—by local authority area

			Permanent exclusions			
			Exclusions for physical assault against an adult		All permanent exclusions	
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]
381	Calderdale	34,765	4	0.12	46	1.32
371	Doncaster	50,302	17	0.34	91	1.81
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	50,036	6	0.12	30	0.60
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	39,262	34	0.87	84	2.14
382	Kirklees	63,113	8	0.13	60	0.95
383	Leeds	111,538	24	0.22	120	1.08
812	North East Lincolnshire	26,023	4	0.15	62	2.38
813	North Lincolnshire	25,047	0	0.00	0	0.00
815	North Yorkshire	88,139	9	0.10	62	0.70
372	Rotherham	45,113	7	0.16	27	0.60
373	Sheffield	75,753	16	0.21	97	1.28
384	Wakefield	52,231	4	0.08	50	0.96
816	York	24,159	5	0.21	42	1.74
	East Midlands[6]	667,600	160	0.24	970	1.46
831	Derby	37,832	14	0.37	85	2.25
830	Derbyshire	115,455	19	0.16	136	1.18
856	Leicester	47,168	22	0.47	79	1.67
855	Leicestershire	96,577	20	0.21	133	1.38
925	Lincolnshire	102,884	20	0.19	182	1.77
928	Northamptonshire	103,694	34	0.33	138	1.33
892	Nottingham	38,195	16	0.42	73	1.91
891	Nottinghamshire	120,891	18	0.15	147	1.22
857	Rutland	4,907	0	0.00	0	0.00
	West Midlands[6]	864,790	120	0.14	1,060	1.22
330	Birmingham	175,226	37	0.21	364	2.08
331	Coventry	49,307	*	*	6	0.12
332	Dudley	50,251	7	0.14	91	1.81
884	Herefordshire	24,005	7	0.29	27	1.12
333	Sandwell	50,581	4	0.08	68	1.34
893	Shropshire	40,761	5	0.12	35	0.86
334	Solihull	36,360	7	0.19	57	1.57
860	Staffordshire	128,800	20	0.16	144	1.12
861	Stoke-on-Trent	36,594	3	0.08	13	0.36
894	Telford and Wrekin	26,491	10	0.38	39	1.47
335	Walsall	48,005	5	0.10	25	0.52
937	Warwickshire	76,698	10	0.13	146	1.90
336	Wolverhampton	40,675	*	*	18	0.44
885	Worcestershire	81,031	*	*	26	0.32
	East of England[6]	842,380	110	0.13	930	1.11
820	Bedfordshire	63,800	11	0.17	126	1.97
873	Cambridgeshire	77,582	*	*	5	0.06
881	Essex	201,078	45	0.22	203	1.01
919	Hertfordshire	174,931	12	0.07	237	1.35
821	Luton	31,075	5	0.16	31	1.00
926	Norfolk	113,477	5	0.04	96	0.85
874	Peterborough	28,680	*	*	30	1.05
882	Southend-on-Sea	27,270	5	0.18	37	1.36
935	Suffolk	101,555	20	0.20	148	1.46
883	Thurrock	22,936	4	0.17	20	0.87
	London[6,7]	1,060,180	160	0.15	1,510	1.43

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against an adult and total number of exclusions (all reasons)[3] numbers and rates per 1,000 pupils 2004/05—by local authority area

			Permanent exclusions			
			Exclusions for physical assault against an adult		All permanent exclusions	
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]
	Inner London[6,7]	360,840	60	0.17	420	1.18
202	Camden	21,565	3	0.14	14	0.65
201	City of London[7]	224	n/a	n/a	•	•
204	Hackney	25,572	5	0.20	28	1.09
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	17,102	•	•	15	0.88
309	Haringey	33,565	7	0.21	28	0.83
206	Islington	22,694	4	0.18	9	0.40
207	Kensington and Chelsea	10,664	5	0.47	17	1.59
208	Lambeth	28,220	0	0.00	41	1.45
209	Lewisham	34,117	•	•	23	0.67
316	Newham	48,646	10	0.21	84	1.73
210	Southwark	33,760	6	0.18	36	1.07
211	Tower Hamlets	36,728	7	0.19	41	1.12
212	Wandsworth	28,286	4	0.14	53	1.87
213	Westminster	19,693	3	0.15	34	1.73
	Outer London[6,7]	699,350	100	0.14	1,090	1.56
301	Barking and Dagenham	31,005	13	0.42	45	1.45
302	Barnet	45,939	12	0.26	57	1.24
303	Bexley	39,513	5	0.13	62	1.57
304	Brent	39,396	15	0.38	85	2.16
305	Bromley	46,894	•	•	56	1.19
306	Croydon	49,099	4	0.08	102	2.08
307	Ealing	41,644	7	0.17	79	1.90
308	Enfield	49,670	•	•	62	1.25
203	Greenwich	36,303	19	0.52	110	3.03
310	Harrow	28,772	3	0.10	51	1.77
311	Havering	36,568	4	0.11	40	1.09
312	Hillingdon	42,027	4	0.10	57	1.36
313	Hounslow	35,840	0	0.00	77	2.15
314	Kingston upon Thames	21,431	•	•	6	0.28
315	Merton	23,547	4	0.17	33	1.40
317	Redbridge	44,622	5	0.11	60	1.34
318	Richmond upon Thames	20,108	0	0.00	22	1.09
319	Sutton	31,277	•	•	26	0.83
320	Waltham Forest (7)	35,692	n/a	n/a	60	1.68
	South East[6]	1,161,570	160	0.14	1,400	1.20
867	Bracknell Forest	15,119	•	•	43	2.84
846	Brighton and Hove	29,961	11	0.37	37	1.23
825	Buckinghamshire	75,866	4	0.05	46	0.61
845	East Sussex	66,612	16	0.24	110	1.65
850	Hampshire	173,289	17	0.10	162	0.93
921	Isle of Wight	19,586	•	•	8	0.41
886	Kent	212,811	25	0.12	356	1.67
887	Medway	43,998	7	0.16	54	1.23
826	Milton Keynes	36,186	6	0.17	50	1.38
931	Oxfordshire	85,281	6	0.07	35	0.41
851	Portsmouth	24,722	6	0.24	20	0.81
870	Reading	16,522	7	0.42	27	1.63
871	Slough	20,274	•	•	10	0.49
852	Southampton	28,576	9	0.31	31	1.08
936	Surrey	140,069	19	0.14	154	1.10
869	West Berkshire	24,626	3	0.12	31	1.26
938	West Sussex	105,642	12	0.11	159	1.51
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	18,984	•	•	31	1.63

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1,2]: permanent and fixed period exclusions for physical assault against an adult and total number of exclusions (all reasons)[3]: numbers and rates per 1,000 pupils 2004/05—by local authority area

			Permanent exclusions			
			Exclusions for physical assault against an adult		All permanent exclusions	
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]
872	Wokingham	23,444	5	0.21	35	1.49
	South West[6]	717,610	70	0.10	780	1.09
800	Bath and North East Somerset	25,161	*	*	40	1.59
837	Bournemouth	20,891	*	*	23	1.10
801	Bristol, City of	46,702	*	*	51	1.09
908	Cornwall	73,227	4	0.05	118	1.61
878	Devon	97,698	4	0.04	64	0.66
835	Dorset	55,849	5	0.09	46	0.82
916	Gloucestershire	85,937	12	0.14	90	1.05
420	Isles of Scilly	251	0	0.00	0	0.00
802	North Somerset	28,141	*	*	17	0.60
879	Plymouth	39,243	7	0.18	43	1.10
836	Poole	19,305	*	*	20	1.04
933	Somerset	71,328	12	0.17	72	1.01
803	South Gloucestershire	39,981	3	0.08	68	1.70
866	Swindon	28,735	6	0.21	28	0.97
880	Torbay	19,625	*	*	14	0.71
865	Wiltshire	65,540	11	0.17	87	1.33

			Fixed period exclusions			
			Exclusions for physical assault against an adult		All fixed period exclusions	
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]
	England[7]	7,606,040	18,480	2.43	389,560	51.22
	North East[6]	398,660	830	2.08	17,580	44.09
841	Darlington	15,404	78	5.06	1,425	92.51
840	Durham	75,863	145	1.91	4,804	63.32
390	Gateshead	28,840	41	1.42	712	24.69
805	Hartlepool	16,035	10	0.62	591	36.86
806	Middlesbrough	20,165	37	1.83	732	36.30
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	37,260	106	2.84	1,928	51.74
392	North Tyneside	30,600	50	1.63	758	24.77
929	Northumberland	50,547	98	1.94	2,448	48.43
807	Redcar and Cleveland	24,083	44	1.63	877	36.42
393	South Tyneside	23,762	49	2.06	1,067	44.90
808	Stockton-on-Tees	30,857	120	3.89	1,051	34.06
394	Sunderland	45,241	54	1.19	1,183	26.15
	North West[6]	1,086,590	2,700	2.48	56,720	52.20
889	Blackburn with Darwen	24,603	108	4.39	1,395	56.70
890	Blackpool	21,190	63	2.97	1,436	67.77
350	Bolton	45,797	133	2.90	2,997	65.44
351	Bury	28,254	68	2.41	1,776	62.86
875	Cheshire	104,163	249	2.39	8,272	60.21
909	Cumbria	76,831	139	1.81	5,458	71.03
876	Halton	18,910	27	1.43	565	29.88
340	Knowsley	26,438	110	4.16	1,025	38.77
888	Lancashire	173,101	476	2.75	9,483	54.78
341	Liverpool	73,239	95	1.30	1,829	24.97
352	Manchester	65,644	358	5.45	4,416	67.27
353	Oldham	40,513	91	2.25	2,639	65.14
354	Rochdale	34,820	87	2.50	1,782	51.18

			Fixed period exclusions			
			Exclusions for physical assault against an adult		All fixed period exclusions	
		Number of pupils on roll[a]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[1]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[1]
355	Salford	32,960	102	3.09	1,979	60.04
343	Sefton	45,132	27	0.60	539	11.94
342	St. Helens	28,272	42	1.49	1,412	49.94
356	Stockport	40,944	102	2.49	2,349	57.37
357	Tameside	36,731	107	2.91	2,420	65.88
358	Trafford	35,964	50	1.39	1,256	34.92
877	Warrington	32,137	74	2.30	2,066	64.29
359	Wigan	48,712	174	3.57	2,582	53.01
344	Wirral	52,231	22	0.42	1,040	19.91
	Yorkshire and the Humber[b]	806,660	2,340	2.90	47,650	59.07
370	Barnsley	34,496	71	2.06	1,429	41.43
380	Bradford	86,686	236	2.72	4,095	47.24
381	Calderdale	34,765	91	2.62	1,663	47.84
371	Don caster	50,302	149	2.96	3,087	61.37
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	50,036	100	2.00	2,550	50.96
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	39,262	288	7.34	3,105	79.08
382	Kirklees	63,113	197	3.12	3,781	59.91
383	Leeds	111,538	368	3.30	7,610	68.23
812	North East Lincolnshire	26,023	99	3.80	2,310	88.77
813	North Lincolnshire	25,047	71	2.83	1,936	77.29
815	North Yorkshire	88,139	164	1.86	3,609	40.95
372	Rotherham	45,113	164	3.64	2,223	49.28
373	Sheffield	75,753	157	2.07	5,094	67.24
384	Wakefield	52,231	138	2.64	3,796	72.68
816	York	24,159	48	1.99	1,356	56.21
	East Midlands[c]	667,600	1,790	2.68	34,610	51.84
831	Derby	37,832	99	2.62	2,595	68.59
830	Derbyshire	115,455	226	1.96	5,003	43.33
856	Leicester	47,168	108	2.29	3,028	64.20
855	Leicestershire	96,577	167	1.73	4,084	42.29
925	Lincolnshire	102,884	257	2.50	4,468	43.43
928	Northamptonshire	103,694	381	3.67	6,277	60.53
892	Nottingham	38,195	241	6.31	2,264	59.27
891	Nottinghamshire	120,891	300	2.48	6,728	55.65
857	Rutland	4,907	9	1.83	159	32.40
	West Midlands[d]	864,790	2,170	2.51	41,210	47.66
330	Birmingham	175,226	505	2.88	8,304	47.39
331	Coventry	49,307	142	2.88	1,474	29.89
332	Dudley	50,251	66	1.31	2,838	58.48
884	Herefordshire	24,005	62	2.58	1,503	62.61
333	Sandwell	50,581	120	2.37	2,167	42.84
893	Shropshire	40,761	93	2.28	2,231	54.73
334	Solihull	36,360	70	1.93	1,683	46.29
860	Staffordshire	128,800	172	1.34	5,702	44.27
861	Stoke-on-Trent	36,594	136	3.72	2,409	65.83
894	Telford and Wrekin	26,491	284	10.72	2,319	87.54
335	Walsall	48,005	127	2.65	2,765	57.60
937	Warwickshire	76,698	119	1.55	3,022	39.40
336	Wolverhampton	40,675	55	1.35	1,263	31.05
885	Worcestershire	81,031	221	2.73	3,533	43.60
	East of England[e]	842,380	1,650	1.96	40,860	48.51
820	Bedfordshire	63,800	115	1.80	2,519	39.48

			Fixed period exclusions			
			Exclusions for physical assault against an adult		All fixed period exclusions	
		Number of pupils on roll[2]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[3]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[3]
873	Cambridgeshire	77,582	89	1.15	2,507	32.31
881	Essex	201,078	472	2.35	12,213	60.74
919	Hertfordshire	174,931	249	1.42	6,731	38.48
821	Luton	31,075	72	2.32	1,247	40.13
926	Norfolk	113,477	177	1.56	5,615	49.48
874	Peterborough	28,680	54	1.88	1,487	51.85
882	Southend-on-Sea	27,270	132	4.84	1,483	54.38
935	Suffolk	101,555	214	2.11	5,307	52.26
883	Thurrock	22,936	71	3.10	1,751	76.34
	London[4,7]	1,060,180	2,490	2.35	42,850	40.41
	Inner London[5,7]	360,840	1,110	3.08	14,110	39.09
202	Camden	21,565	69	3.20	1,017	47.16
201	City of London[7]	224	0	0.00	–	–
204	Hackney	25,572	143	5.59	1,244	48.65
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	17,102	55	3.22	809	47.30
309	Haringey	33,565	121	3.60	1,647	49.07
206	Islington	22,694	87	3.83	526	23.18
207	Kensington and Chelsea	10,664	25	2.34	341	31.98
208	Lambeth	28,220	34	1.20	1,092	38.70
209	Lewisham	34,117	103	3.02	1,313	38.49
316	Newham	48,646	39	0.80	1,138	23.39
210	Southwark	33,760	119	3.52	1,235	36.58
211	Tower Hamlets	36,728	100	2.72	1,255	34.17
212	Wandsworth	28,286	157	5.55	1,575	55.68
213	Westminster	19,693	61	3.10	913	46.36
	Outer London[6,7]	699,350	1,370	1.96	28,740	41.09
301	Barking and Dagenham	31,005	79	2.55	824	26.58
302	Barnet	45,939	86	1.87	1,494	32.52
303	Bexley	39,513	53	1.34	1,715	43.40
304	Brent	39,396	108	2.74	1,863	47.29
305	Bromley	46,894	40	0.85	1,954	41.67
306	Croydon	49,099	94	1.91	1,307	26.62
307	Ealing	41,644	68	1.63	2,003	48.10
308	Enfield	49,670	110	2.21	2,053	41.33
203	Greenwich	36,303	227	6.25	2,745	75.61
310	Harrow	28,772	47	1.63	1,090	37.88
311	Havering	36,568	44	1.20	1,824	49.88
312	Hillingdon	42,027	65	1.55	1,135	27.01
313	Hounslow	35,840	0	0.00	1,271	35.46
314	Kingston upon Thames	21,431	15	0.70	704	32.85
315	Merton	23,547	77	3.27	1,278	54.27
317	Redbridge	44,622	29	0.65	445	9.97
318	Richmond upon Thames	20,108	22	1.09	904	44.96
319	Sutton	31,277	43	1.37	1,441	46.07
320	Waltham Forest (7)	35,692	167	4.68	2,689	75.34
	South East[8]	1,161,570	2,810	2.42	67,820	58.39
867	Bracknell Forest	15,119	18	1.19	672	44.45
846	Brighton and Hove	29,961	147	4.91	2,206	73.63
825	Buckinghamshire	75,866	123	1.62	2,409	31.75
845	East Sussex	66,612	262	3.93	5,937	89.13
850	Hampshire	173,289	449	2.59	11,727	67.67
921	Isle of Wight	19,586	47	2.40	1,008	51.47
886	Kent	212,811	353	1.66	11,895	55.89

			Fixed period exclusions			
			Exclusions for physical assault against an adult		All fixed period exclusions	
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]	Number	Exclusions per 1,000 pupils[5]
887	Medway	43,998	139	3.16	2,830	64.32
826	Milton Keynes	36,186	32	0.88	1,136	31.39
931	Oxfordshire	85,281	221	2.59	4,305	50.48
851	Portsmouth	24,722	209	8.45	2,982	120.62
870	Reading	16,522	69	4.18	1,046	63.31
871	Slough	20,274	32	1.58	537	26.49
852	Southampton	28,576	159	5.56	2,869	101.10
936	Surrey	140,069	210	1.50	7,114	50.79
869	West Berkshire	24,626	38	1.54	1,578	64.08
938	West Sussex	105,642	228	2.16	5,800	54.90
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	18,984	20	1.05	701	36.93
872	Wokingham	23,444	49	2.09	1,047	44.66
	South West[6]	717,610	1,710	2.38	40,280	56.13
800	Bath and North East Somerset	25,161	40	1.59	1,804	71.70
837	Bournemouth	20,891	45	2.15	1,116	53.42
801	Bristol, City of	46,702	297	6.36	5,609	120.10
908	Cornwall	73,227	85	1.16	3,161	43.17
878	Devon	97,698	201	2.06	5,678	58.12
835	Dorset	55,849	39	0.70	1,684	30.15
916	Gloucestershire	85,937	123	1.43	3,487	40.58
420	Isles of Scilly	251	0	0.00	0	0.00
802	North Somerset	28,141	94	3.34	1,441	51.21
879	Plymouth	39,243	96	2.45	1,392	35.47
836	Poole	19,305	69	3.57	1,335	69.15
933	Somerset	71,328	206	2.89	4,308	60.40
803	South Gloucestershire	39,981	67	1.68	2,357	58.95
866	Swindon	28,735	143	4.98	2,185	76.04
880	Torbay	19,625	79	4.03	970	49.43
865	Wiltshire	65,540	126	1.92	3,753	57.26

* = Less than three, or a rate based on less than three.
'–' = Less than five, or a rate based on less than five.
n/a = Not available.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained special schools, excludes non-maintained special schools.
[3] The distribution of exclusions by reason has been derived from the Termly Exclusions survey and applied to the number of permanent exclusions as confirmed by local authorities as part of the school census checking exercise.
[4] The number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January 2005.
[5] The number of exclusions in 2004/05 divided by how many thousands of pupils were on roll in January 2005.
[6] National and regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. Totals as shown may not equal the sum of constituent parts.
[7] The reasons for permanent exclusions are not available for Waltham Forest and City of London.
Source:
School Census and Termly Exclusions Survey

Schools: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which 10 schools in Nottinghamshire have the highest percentage of Gypsy and Traveller children on their rolls. [133016]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* The information requested is shown in the tables.

The figures for Travellers of Irish heritage and Gypsy/Roma children need to be interpreted with caution due to the small numbers recorded.

10 schools which have the highest percentage of pupils who are classified as 'Gypsy/Roma ethnic origin'[1,2]—January 2006—Nottinghamshire

URN	LA number	Estab. number	School name	Number of pupils classified as Gypsy/ Roma ethnic origin	Percentage of pupils classified as Gypsy/ Roma ethnic origin[1]
122747	891	3040	Mount CofE Primary and Nursery School	44	32.6
122822	891	3770	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School	21	13.6
122775	891	3145	Walesby CofE Primary School	14	8.9

10 schools which have the highest percentage of pupils who are classified as Gypsy/Roma ethnic origin[1] - January 2006 - Nottinghamshire

URN	LA number	Estab number	School name	Number of pupils classified as Gypsy/ Roma ethnic origin	Percentage of pupils classified as Gypsy/ Roma ethnic origin[2]
122737	891	2933	Ryton Park Primary School	11	5.1
132784	891	3292	Bowbridge Primary School	12	3.6
122611	891	2673	Manners Sutton Primary School	*	*
122593	891	2526	Hawtonville Junior School	5	1.9
131360	891	4583	Magnus CofE School	17	1.5
122595	891	2532	Lovers Lane Primary and Nursery School	*	*
122580	891	2444	Jackdale Primary and Nursery School	3	1.2

* = Less than 3, or a rate based on less than 3.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Pupils of compulsory school age and above were classified according to ethnic group. Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] The number of pupils by ethnic group expressed as a percentage of all pupils of compulsory school age and above.
Source:
School Census

10 schools which have the highest percentage of pupils who are classified as Traveller of Irish heritage ethnic origin[1] - January 2006 - Nottinghamshire

URN	LA number	Estab number	School name	Number of pupils classified as Traveller of Irish heritage ethnic origin	Percentage of pupils classified as Traveller of Irish heritage ethnic origin[2]
122645	891	2751	Queen Eleanor Primary School	3	9.4
122594	891	2527	Oliver Quibell Infant School	*	*
130996	891	7041	Newark Orchard School	*	*
133279	891	3299	Ladybrook Primary School	3	2.2
131360	891	4583	Magnus CofE School	12	1.1
122812	891	3696	The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary, Arnold	*	*
122578	891	2436	Selston Bagthorpe Primary School	*	*
122730	891	2926	Prospect Hill Junior School	*	*
122670	891	2812	Radcliffe-on-Trent Junior School	*	*
122582	891	2460	Annie Holgate Junior School	*	*

* = Less than 3, or a rate based on less than 3.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Pupils of compulsory school age and above were classified according to ethnic group. Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] The number of pupils by ethnic group expressed as a percentage of all pupils of compulsory school age and above.
Source:
School Census

Schools: Private Finance Initiative

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations his Department has received from *(a)* schools and *(b)* local authorities on concerns about private finance initiative contracts with schools; and what meetings have taken place at a departmental level on this issue. [134451]

Jim Knight: The Department works directly with schools and authorities, and also with and through a range of bodies, including HM Treasury, Partnerships UK, Partnerships for Schools and the 4ps, to understand and address the concerns that schools and authorities may have from time to time about private finance initiative contracts for schools. Our aim is to ensure that schools get from private finance initiative contracts the excellent service they deserve. Private finance initiatives were introduced for schools in 1998, and contacts with authorities, schools and with other bodies have been a part of the everyday work of the Department since then.

In 2005, we published a report which we commissioned from Partnerships UK on operational schools private finance initiative contracts, which is available at www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=9262. This report found that, on balance, contracts were operating successfully across most of their provision, and that there were some strong examples of good delivery. It made suggestions for improvements, all of which had already been, or subsequently were, acted upon. Further, we have worked with HM Treasury to enable Partnerships UK to act as a taskforce helpdesk for schools which have concerns or difficulties with their private finance initiative contracts. Department officials also continue to work directly with schools and authorities where needed.

In the past year, directly or through Partnerships UK and other bodies, representations have included benchmarking and market testing; support during the transition to operational status; variations to contract; dispute resolution and poor performance; availability of other schools capital funding; schools changing status while in a PFI contract. Officials also recently met the Association of Schools and College Leaders to discuss a similar range of issues.

Schools: Yorkshire

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on how many occasions pupils at each state secondary school in Yorkshire have been excluded for having been found to be in possession of *(a)* a weapon and *(b)* narcotics on school premises in each of the last two years. [129712]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not available.

From the academic year 2003/04, information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. The reason for exclusion is described by one of 12 set categories. There is no specific category relating to possession of a weapon or possession of narcotics.

A table showing the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions from each maintained secondary school in Yorkshire and the Humber region during 2003/04 and 2004/05 has been placed in the House Library.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority secondary curriculum review is based *(a)* wholly and *(b)* in part on an outcome-based educational approach. [133462]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The purpose of all education is to achieve outcomes or results. The secondary curriculum review is based upon the need for all young people to acquire prescribed subject knowledge, skills and understanding including high level skills in literacy, numeracy and scientific understanding; to develop a knowledge of British history and an understanding of our place in the world; and to understand contemporary issues which shape the international context for the next generation.

The secondary curriculum review also seeks to provide all young people with the skills to continue to learn throughout life; to be inquisitive, independent thinkers; to be problem solvers; and team workers.

If that is what is meant by 'an outcome-based educational approach' then the secondary curriculum review can be said to be 'outcome based'.

If however, 'an outcome-based educational approach' is defined as a curriculum which is content-free; lacking in rigour; entirely skills based; and not specific and particular about cognitive content, then that is most definitely not the approach upon which the secondary curriculum review is based.

Teachers: Pay

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what teachers' *(a)* starting salary, *(b)* salary after seven years employment and *(c)* average pay was in each of the last 30 years; and what the percentage change was in each year at today's prices. [133354]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* To derive figures for a 30-year time period for starting salaries and salaries after seven years employment would be at disproportionate cost.

The average salary figures for *(a)* newly qualified entrants and *(b)* teachers with between seven and eight years experience for both March 1997 and March 2005 (provisional), expressed in cash and real terms in 2005-06 prices, for England and Wales is shown in the following table.

Average salaries in cash and real terms

	March 1997		*March (provisional)*		
	Cash (£)	*Real (£)*	*Cash (£)*	*Real (£)*	*Real terms difference (Percentage)*
Newly qualified entrants in England and Wales[1]	14,560	18,080	19,730	20,100	11
Between 7 and 8 years experience[2]	22,520	27,970	32,060	32,660	17

[1] Teachers qualifying through college based routes in England or Wales in the previous calendar year in full-time regular service the following March.
[2] Includes only teachers on the main and upper pay scale.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Real term figures based on latest GDP deflators (21 March 2007) from HMT shown in 2005-06 prices.

Average salaries are used to answer parts *(a)* and *(b)* because there are, in fact, no set salaries for those starting teaching or those with seven years' experience.

In relation to part *(c)*, average salary figures over the last 30 years for teachers are available and are shown in the following table in both cash and real terms, with percentage year on year and cumulative changes, for England and Wales.

Year[1]	*Average salary in cash terms*[2] *(£)*	*Salaries in 2005-06 terms (£)*	*Yearly real terms increase/ decrease (Percentage)*	*Cumulative real terms increase/ decrease (Percentage)*
1975	3,110	21,400		
1976	3,960	21,710	1	1
1977	4,330	20,920	-4	-2
1978	4,560	19,370	-7	-9
1979	5,520	20,370	5	-5
1980	6,090	19,940	-2	-7
1981	7,640	21,160	6	-1
1982	8,300	21,010	-1	-2
1983	8,890	21,000	0	-2
1984	9,400	21,230	1	-1
1985	9,950	21,340	1	0
1986	11,020	22,410	5	5
1987	12,860	25,340	13	18
1988	14,640	27,310	8	28
1989	14,380	25,080	-8	17
1990	15,520	25,260	1	18
1991	17,140	25,860	2	21
1992	19,230	27,350	6	28
1993	20,750	28,590	5	34
1994	20,970	28,160	-2	32
1995	20,510	27,130	-4	27
1996	20,990	26,940	-1	26
1997	21,670	26,910	0	26
1998	22,210	26,800	0	25
1999	23,080	27,160	1	27
2000	23,980	27,660	2	29
2001	25,540	29,050	5	36
2002	26,880	29,870	3	40
2003	28,500	30,720	3	44
2004	29,590	30,970	1	45
2005[3]	30,590	31,160	1	46

[1] Data from March that year.
[2] Excludes those in leadership/head teacher positions and particular grades outside of the main and upper pay scales in the years where this is appropriate.
[3] Provisional.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
2. Real terms figures based on latest GDP deflators (21 March 2007) from HMT shown in 2005-06 prices.

Textbooks: ICT

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what resources he *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make available to increase the number of required school textbooks available in an electronic format. [133830]

Jim Knight: The Department does not require schools to use particular textbooks and teachers typically use a range of different resources to support delivery of the curriculum. The electronic availability of commonly used textbooks is a matter for publishers.

HEALTH

Cancer: Waiting Lists

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what percentage of cases her Department's *(a)* 31 and *(b)* 62 day waiting time targets for cancer diagnosis, referral and treatment were met by each hospital in London in the last period for which figures are available. [132330]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested can be found in the following tables. The figures are taken from the period 2006-07.

2005-06 Q2 31day diagnosis-treatment (all cancers)

SHA	Quarter	Year	Trust code	Trust	Referral via 2WW	Referral via other	Treat <31	Treat 32 to 38	Treat 39 to 48	Treat 49
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	39	232	271	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAN	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	6	25	31	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	34	101	135	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	39	126	165	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	73	108	180	1	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	22	53	75	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	239	290	529	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	24	66	90	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	94	108	202	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	66	108	174	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	64	114	178	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	25	55	80	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ1	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	199	378	574	1	2	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	24	37	61	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ5	St Mary's NHS Trust	41	104	145	0	0	0

2005-06 Q2 31day diagnosis-treatment (all cancers)

SHA	Quarter	Year	Trust code	Trust	Referral via 2WW	Referral via other	Treat <31	Treat 32 to 38	Treat 39 to 48	Treat 49
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	77	93	168	1	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ7	St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	127*	244	371	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	54	180	233	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	42	54	96	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RNH	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	26	43	69	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RNJ	Barts and the London NHS Trust	93	240	335	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	0	27	27	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RP6	Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0	13	11	1	1	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RPY	The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	144	304	447	1	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	16	56	72	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RQN	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	92	275	365	1	1	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	21	39	60	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	49	281	330	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	15	55	70	0	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	76	213	287	1	0	1
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	101	220	320	1	0	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RVR	Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	97	174	271	0	0	0

SHA	Quarter	Year	Trust code	Trust	Treat 63	Treat 77	Treat 91	Treat 10	Total treated	Performance (Percentage)
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	271	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAN	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	31	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	135	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	165	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	181	99.4
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	75	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	529	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	REW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	90	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	202	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	174	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	178	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	80	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ1	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0	0	577	99.5
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	61	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ5	St Mary's NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	145	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	1	0	0	0	170	98.8
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ7	St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	371	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1	0	0	0	234	99.6
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	96	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RNH	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	69	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RNJ	Barts and the London NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	335	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RP4	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	27	100.0

SHA	Quarter	Year	Trust code	Trust	Treat 63	Treat 77	Treat 91	Treat 10	Total treated	Performance (Percentage)
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RP6	Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0	0	13	84.6
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RPY	The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0	0	448	99.8
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0	0	72	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RQN	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	367	99.5
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0	0	60	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0	0	330	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	70	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	289	99.3
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	321	99.7
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RVR	Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	0	0	271	100.0

2005-06 Q2 62 referral-treatment (all cancers)

SHA	Quarter	Year	Accountable trust code	Accountable trust	31 or less	32 to 38	39 to 48	49 to 62	63 to 76
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	24	4.5	7	2.5	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAN	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	0	0.5	1	2	0.5
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	4	4.5	5.5	16	0.5
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	19	9.5	6	6.5	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	25.5	5.5	16	19.5	0.5
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	9	4.5	4	8	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	83	31	48.5	85.5	0.5
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	3.5	5	6	13	0.5
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	36	6	16	42	1
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	29.5	10	16	15.5	2.5
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RGC	Whipps cross University Hospital NHS Trust	27	8.5	17.5	21.5	0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	10.5	6	8	6.5	0

2005-06 Q2 62 referral-treatment (all cancers)

SHA	Quarter	Year	Accountable trust code	Accountable trust	31 or less	32 to 38	39 to 48	49 to 62	63 to 76
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RJ1	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	26	19	25	61.5	3.5
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	16	3	9	12	0
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RJ5	St Mary's NHS Trust	25.5	7	2.5	9	0
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	30	15	21.5	21	2.5
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RJ7	St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	42.5	17	14.5	39	0
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	17	6	9	13.5	3.5
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	20	5.5	4	12	0
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RNH	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	5	2	6	13	0
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RNJ	Barts and the London NHS Trust	17.5	6.5	17	24	0.5
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RPY	The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	29	13	25	25	4
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	7	2.5	2	5	0
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RQN	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	16.5	11.5	11.5	28.5	2
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	6.5	4	5.5	10.5	0
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	7	4.5	7.5	19.5	0.5
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	2	0.5	2.5	3.5	0
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	30.5	13	13	24.5	0
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	36	12	23	35	0.5
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RVR	Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	50	18.5	18.5	30	0

SHA	Quarter	Year	Trust code	Trust	77 to 90	91 to 104	105+	Total treated	<=62 days	Performance (Percentage)
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	0	0	0	38	38	100.0
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RAN	Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	4	3.5	87.5
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	0	1	0.5	32	30	93.8
Q36	Q1	2006-07	RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	41	41	100.0

SHA	Quarter	Year	Trust code	Trust	77 to 90	91 to 104	105+	Total treated	<=62 days	Performance (Percentage)
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	0	1	0	68	66.5	97.8
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	25.5	25.5	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	2	250.5	248	99.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	28	27.5	98.2
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	0.5	0.5	0	102	100	98.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	1.5	1.5	0	76.5	71	92.8
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RGC	Whipps cross University Hospital NHS Trust	1.5	0.5	0	76.5	74.5	97.4
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	0	0.5	0	31.5	31	98.4
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ1	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	2.5	2.5	0	140	131.5	93.9
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	0	0	0	40	40	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ5	St Mary's NHS Trust	0	0	1.5	45.5	44	96.7
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	0	3	0.5	93.5	87.5	93.6
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJ7	St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	0.5	0	1.5	115	113	98.3
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2.5	1	3.5	56	45.5	81.3
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	1	0	1	43.5	41.5	95.4
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RNH	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	1	0	0	27	26	96.3
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RNJ	Barts and the London NHS Trust	0.5	1.5	0	67.5	65	96.3
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RPY	The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust	0	1.5	1.5	98.5	92	93.4
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0	16.5	16.5	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RQN	Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	1	0	0	71	68	95.8
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0	1	0	27.5	26.5	96.4

SHA	Quarter	Year	Trust code	Trust	77 to 90	91 to 104	105+	Total treated	<=62 days	Performance (Percentage)
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation trust	0	0	1	40	38.5	96.3
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RT3	Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	0	0	0	8.5	8.5	100.0
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	0	0	1	82	81	98.8
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	1	0	0.5	108	106	98.1
Q36	Q3	2006-07	RVR	Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	0.5	0.5	0	118	117	99.2

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many faecal occult blood testing kits have been distributed by each hub participating in the NHS bowel cancer screening programme; how many have been returned and analysed; how many returned kits were positive; how many individuals were subsequently referred for further investigation; what the take-up rate was of individuals referred for further investigation; how many individuals subsequently underwent a colonoscopy; and how many individuals were subsequently diagnosed with bowel cancer. [130886]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are five bowel screening programme hubs in England and their activity, as at 26 March 2007, is set out in the following table. It shows: how many invitations have been sent out to those aged 60 to 69, the screening age group, in each hub's local area; how many people aged 70 and over have self referred and opted in to the programme; how many faecal occult blood (FOB) test kits were sent out by each hub; how many of the FOB kits were returned; and how many of these gave a positive result.

Programme hubs	Invitations sent to 60 to 69s	Opt-on over 70s	Test kits sent	Returned kits	Positive results
Midlands and North West (Rugby)	77,573	2,524	71,196	39,064	767
Southern (Guildford)	20,988	311	18,775	10,402	118
London (St. Mark's)	28,579	230	25,407	8,553	199
North East (Gateshead)	21,191	338	15,883	4,992	39
Eastern (Nottingham)	1,086	3	745	77	0
Total	149,417	3,456	132,006	63,088	1,123

All individuals with a positive FOB test kit result are invited to attend a FOB test positive clinic. As of 26 March 2007, 959 people had attended a clinic. At the clinic, a screening nurse assesses the person's suitability to undergo colonoscopy. The number of colonoscopies undertaken was 664, giving a colonoscopy uptake rate of 69 per cent.

The following table shows the colonoscopies broken down by screening centre, as of 26 March 2007.

Local screening centre	Screening nurse clinic attendance	Colonoscopies
Wolverhampton	226	147
Norwich	265	237
Cheshire and Merseyside	174	120
Bolton	3	0
Gloucestershire	18	1
South Devon	92	70
Solent and West Sussex	0	0
St. Mark's, London	108	69
Inner North East London	0	0
St. George's, London	50	20
University College London	0	0
Tees	8	0
South of Tyne	12	0
Hull	3	0
Derbyshire	0	0
Total	959	664

101 cancers have so far been diagnosed, but these cannot be broken down by screening centre for patient confidentiality reasons. 342 patients were diagnosed with polyps which may have developed into cancer over time. Treating polyps has reduced their risk of bowel cancer.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of faecal occult blood testing kits distributed since implementation of the NHS bowel cancer screening programme have been returned by *(a)* women and *(b)* men. [131016]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is in the following table as at 30 March 2007.

Gender	Number of testing kits sent out	Percentage	Number of testing kits returned	Percentage
Female	64,665	50	31,997	51
Male	64,548	50	30,834	49
Total	129,213	—	62,831	—

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the impact on capacity for colonoscopy services of the roll-out of the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme. [131051]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Billericay (Mr. Baron) on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 321W.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by her Department. [132200]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Departmental budget managers are required to observe our code of business conduct. This states hospitality such as business meals or drinks outside of normal working hours can be provided on an appropriate scale but states particular care must be taken to ensure that the provision of alcohol is limited and reasonable.

Health Hazards: Radiation

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost is of the decontamination of 140 Osier Crescent, London, N10. [133040]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

This is a matter that the London borough of Haringey is pursuing with representatives of the owning company. Until a full survey is undertaken, it is not possible to give an estimate of the costs of remediation work. In the meantime, the London borough of Haringey has taken action to restrict access to the house and reassured the public that living close to the property in Osier Crescent is not a health hazard.

Health Services: Rural Areas

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the closure programmes for community hospitals in rural areas on the delivery of NHS care to rural communities. [133625]

Andy Burnham: There is no centrally co-ordinated closure programme for community hospitals in England. Proposals for changes to the way services are delivered locally are a matter for local commissioners in conjunction with local people. Primary care trusts in England are expected to take into account issues such as the impact on rural areas when making decisions about the configuration of services locally.

Health Services: South West Region

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has approved proposals from the South West Strategic Health Authority to rebalance NHS provision away from acute hospital care to out-of-hospital care in the community; and if she will make a statement. [133171]

Andy Burnham: Any proposals for the reconfiguration of services are a matter for the national health service locally.

There is a well established and well understood process for managing formal public consultations on proposed changes so that patients, the public and other stakeholders can help to inform the local debate.

However, our vision for providing more services in settings that are convenient for patients was set out in "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say".

Although one of our goals is to treat people more quickly and conveniently closer to home, this should only happen where it is consistent with safety and good quality care.

Hospital Wards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1593W, on mixed-sex wards, whether she has determined a timescale for publication of the reports she received on mixed-sex wards from strategic health authorities on 11 December 2006. [131849]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No timescale has yet been decided. The information will be used as part of a comprehensive assessment of the situation, including identification of best practice examples. This will be released in due course.

Hospitals: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies were frozen in each quarter of the last five years in each hospital in London, broken down by staff department. [132334]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was paid by NHS trusts in asset charges for unoccupied or unused space in each hospital in London in each of the last five years; [132335]

(2) how much *(a)* ward, *(b)* public, *(c)* office and *(d)* other space is unoccupied or unused in each hospital in London. [132336]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally.

Maternity Services: Ashurst

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* financial and *(b)* managerial responsibilities are of (i) Hampshire Primary Care

Trust and (ii) Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust with respect to implementing a new maternity unit at Ashurst; and if she will make a statement. [134093]

Caroline Flint: Any proposals for improvements to services are a matter for the national health service locally.

Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust led the formal public consultation on these proposals which are now being implemented by the trust to provide the best possible support for local women.

Medicine: Students

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage change in the bursaries that *(a)* nursing, *(b)* midwifery, *(c)* medical, *(d)* dental and *(e)* allied health professional students received there was in each year since 1997. [131934]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Table one shows the national health service bursary rates for the basic awards, not including additional allowances, for the period 1997 to 2008 and the annual percentage increases. The majority of nurses and midwives receive the non-means tested bursary. Medical and dental students and the majority of allied health professional students receive the means-tested NHS bursary. The NHS bursary scheme has supported allied health professional students since 1998 and medical and dental undergraduate students since September 2002 from their fifth and subsequent years of study. During the first four years' of study, medical and dental students receive support under the Department for Education and Skills regulations.

In addition to the basic NHS bursary awards there are a number of other allowances.

Basic NHS bursary rates for academic years 1997-98 to 2007-08

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Degree						
London	n/a	2,225	2,280	2,335	2,578	2,640
Elsewhere	n/a	1,810	1,855	1,900	2,098	2,148
Parental Home	n/a	1,480	1,515	1,555	1,717	1,758
Diploma						
London	5,230	5,374	5,508	5,645	6,232	6,382
Elsewhere	4,450	4,572	4,686	4,805	5,305	5,432
% Increase on previous year	—	2.75	2.5	2.4	10.4	2.4

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Degree					
London	2,703	2,768	2,837	2,908	2,976
Elsewhere	2,200	2,253	2,309	2,367	2,422
Parental Home	1,800	1,843	1,889	1,963	2,009
Diploma					
London	6,535	6,692	6,859	7,030	7,194
Elsewhere	5,562	5,695	5,837	5,983	6,122
% Increase on previous year	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.33

Basic NHS bursary rates for academic 2007-08 for new students

	2007-08
Degree	
London	3,215
Elsewhere	2,672
Parental Home	2,231
Diploma	
London	7,443
Elsewhere	6,372

Table two shows national health service bursary rates for the basic awards, not including additional allowances, for new students who commence their course on or after 1 September 2007.

Changes from September 2007 have been made to modernise the current scheme. This has allowed for the redistribution of funds to provide; an increase in the basic allowance and a new parents' learning allowance.

Medway Maritime Hospital: Nurses

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses have been made redundant at Medway Maritime Hospital since April 2005. [134649]

Caroline Flint: Redundancy data were collected centrally for the first time in 2006. There were no nurses made compulsory redundant at the Medway NHS Trust in the nine months up to 31 December 2006.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the Minister of State to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, on Co-proximal. [134723]

Caroline Flint: The letter was answered on 30 April 2007.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the Parliamentary Under-Secretary to reply to the letter of 13 March from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, on Osbourne Court Community Unit. [134725]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have replied to the letter of 13 March from the hon. Member on 27 April 2007.

Mental Health Services: Cheltenham

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the Independent Reconfiguration Panel to report its advice to her on the referral from Gloucestershire Overview and Scrutiny Committee relating to the decision by Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust to centralise older people's mental health inpatient facilities at Charlton Lane, Cheltenham; and when she expects to agree and publish its terms of reference. [134888]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Terms of Reference will be published shortly.

Mentally Ill: Life Expectancy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of severe mental health conditions on the life expectancy of patients. [132290]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not made a direct assessment of the impact of severe mental health problems on the life expectancy of patients. However, as made clear in the Choosing Health White Paper, the Government recognise that people with mental health problems tend to experience worse physical health than the rest of the population. This is why it is supporting well-being support programmes in spearhead primary care trusts and published a commissioning framework in 2006 on supporting the physical health needs of people with severe mental illness, which has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4138212

NHS: Consultants

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on management consultancy services by the NHS in the latest year for which figures are available. [131919]

Andy Burnham: Information on the costs of employing external management consultants is not collected centrally.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS organisations have been in receipt of turnaround support in each month since January 2006; and which NHS organisations have received turnaround support in the period since January 2006 but are no longer part of the turnaround programme. [131955]

Andy Burnham: The tables detail the organisations that have been part of the National Turnaround Programme between February and August 2006, between August and October 2006 and since October 2006. This information has been placed in the Library.

The following organisations have left the National Turnaround Programme since January 2006:

North Tees and Hartlepool National Health Service Trust and the Mid-Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust: by January 2007, these trusts were delivering sustained recurrent monthly run rate balance;

High Peak and Dales Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Sedgefield PCT: in the commissioning a patient-led NHS reconfiguration, from October 2006 these PCTs were consolidated into significantly larger new PCTs that did not require turnaround support; and

North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust: became Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust in December 2006.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many posts there were for *(a)* consultants, *(b)* registrars, *(c)* senior house officers and *(d)* house officers in London in each quarter of the last 10 years, broken down by hospital trust; and how many posts were vacant in each case. [132144]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish the NHS staff earnings survey. [131953]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Updated national health service staff earnings information is expected to be available at the end of June 2007. It will be published by the Information Centre. The exact publication date will be set during mid May, and will be available from:

www.ic.nhs.uk.

NHS: Secondment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many secondees there were from the NHS to each central Government Department in each of the last five years; and from which NHS trusts they were seconded. [131345]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department only began to record all secondees into the organisation on its main Human Resources Information System during 2006-07, so historic information on numbers is not available.

As at the end of March 2007, there were 58 full-time equivalent staff seconded into the Department. We do not maintain a record of the seconding organisation.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her statement of 10 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 314-15, which problems in the NHS arise from the previous Government's negotiation of the European working time directive; and how they differ from the additional problems driven by the impact of the SiMAP and Jaeger judgments. [118243]

Ms Rosie Winterton: More engagement in the working time directive negotiations from the outset would have most likely resulted in a better directive and safeguards against legal challenges such as SiMAP and Jaeger.

The retention of the opt-out and a solution to the problems caused by the SiMAP and Jaeger judgments still remain priorities for the United Kingdom, and together with many member states we continue to seek changes to the European working time directive to address the difficulties from these judgments.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1141W, on NHS: working hours, what indicators of NHS readiness for fully implementing the 48-hour week for doctors in training her Department monitors; and if she will publish the results of such monitoring for the latest period for which figures are available. [131880]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The New Deal contract monitoring returns give an indication of national health service readiness for fully implementing the 48-hour week for doctors in training. Monitoring information is published on the NHS Employers website at: www.nhsemployers.org

The progress of the NHS working time directive pilots programme and research by the medical Royal Colleges also provides useful workforce information to support working time directive implementation.

Palliative Care: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 448W, on palliative care: finance, what the baseline year is for measuring the commitment to double spending on palliative care services; what the level of expenditure on palliative care services was in the baseline year; and by what date she intends to meet the commitment to double spending on palliative care services. [131886]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The NHS Operating Framework for 2007-08 highlighted the importance of primary care trusts (PCTs) undertaking baseline reviews of their end of life care services. We will be issuing guidance on what the reviews should cover shortly. These reviews will provide information on the current position of end of life care services in PCTs and will help support the implementation of the end of life care strategy when it is published.

As part of the end of life care strategy, the analytical and modelling working group will be examining the true cost of providing end of life care. They will aim to estimate the cost of the services provided across the board by both the national health service and the voluntary sector, both general and specialist, in the last three to six months of a patient's life and the current expenditure on end of life care services.

This information will inform the delivery of the Government's manifesto commitment.

Patients: Transport

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient journeys are estimated to have taken place between Cheltenham and Gloucester in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2006; and what the predicted numbers are for (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [134463]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Psychologists

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many qualified clinical psychology staff worked in the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority in each year since 1997. [129897]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is shown in the table.

Number of qualified clinical psychology staff working in the national health service in England and in each strategic health authority (SHA) since 1997

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
England	4,038	4,408	4,572	5,032	5,514	6,092	6,757	7,051	7,122
North East SHA	202	223	231	275	291	323	348	349	351
North West SHA	486	551	578	614	716	835	913	1,014	982
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	407	423	384	471	463	548	565	593	593
East Midlands SHA	277	264	270	274	351	364	388	408	422
West Midlands SHA	434	535	541	587	645	729	821	810	762
East of England SHA	217	314	323	338	352	427	499	477	530
London SHA	954	1,037	1,104	1,217	1,329	1,509	1,698	1,857	1,841
South East Coast SHA	279	309	367	414	465	451	471	455	506
South Central SHA	277	281	284	295	328	312	418	424	443
Special Health Authorities and Other Statutory Bodies	48	51	57	66	23	—	—	—	—

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Compulsory Purchase: Liverpool

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of her Ministers have visited the Liverpool streets designated by her for clearance by compulsory purchase order for the Pathfinder development; and on what dates those visits took place. [133672]

Yvette Cooper: On 4 October 2006 Baroness Andrews visited some of the intervention areas of the Merseyside housing market renewal pathfinder area, although not

the areas included in the compulsory purchase orders approved in March 2007. Previously, in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, a number of the Office of Deputy Prime Minister Ministers visited the Pathfinder area.

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which councils' tenants voted against large scale voluntary transfer in each year since 1997. [131053]

Yvette Cooper: A table listing all transfer ballots by year since 1997 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departments: European Council

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many EU Council meetings she has attended since taking up her post; and who represents her if she is unable to attend. [133755]

Angela E. Smith: The Secretary of State has not attended an EU Council meeting since taking up her post. If the Secretary of State is unable to attend, then the meeting would be delegated to her ministerial team. A member of the ministerial team would then attend, diary permitting.

Departments: Planning

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are taken by her Department to include *(a)* older people and *(b)* people with disabilities in strategic planning, policy making and the delivery of the services they use. [132907]

Yvette Cooper: Involvement of older and disabled people is integral to the formation of Communities and Local Government policies that affect them. Examples of recent and forthcoming consultations on my Department's policies include those on the Supporting People programme, the review of Disabled Facilities Grants, and the National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society. Disabled people were also consulted in the formation of my Department's disability equality scheme, which sets out what we will be doing over the next three years to improve equality of opportunity for disabled people, and has been commended by the Disability Rights Commission.

In addition, the recently published Local Government White Paper encourages local authorities to target groups and communities who may in the past have been marginalised, including older and disabled people's groups, when discharging their new duty to 'inform, consult, involve and devolve'.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by her Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [134993]

Angela E. Smith: In the year 2005-06[1], the amount of energy purchased from renewable sources by Communities and Local Government was as follows:

Renewable energy purchased

	Kilowatt hours
Headquarter buildings	12,538,297
Agencies	6,624,649

This answer does not include the buildings occupied by Government offices, who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Departments are mandated to source at least 10 per cent. of electricity from renewable sources by March 2008.

Data relating to the Department's energy consumption and its performance against all the Government estate sustainable operations targets is available in the Sustainable Development Commission's Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) Report 2006 found at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/.

[1] Figures are yet to be fully collated for 2006-07 due to electricity billing arrangements.

Equality Act 2006

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which religious organisations she has met to discuss the Equality Act 2006; and how many such meetings she has had. [122249]

Mr. Woolas: A range of meetings have been held between religious organisations and Ministers and officials about issues related to the Equality Act 2006. These have included meetings with representatives of interfaith groups, the Church of England, the Catholic Church, the Christian Institute, the Lawyers Christian Fellowship, the Evangelical Alliance, faith-based schools and adoption agencies, and Scottish religious groups.

Homebuy Scheme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether tenants purchasing an equity stake in a property under the Social HomeBuy scheme are responsible for the entire maintenance costs of the property. [129278]

Yvette Cooper: Housing association and local authority tenants purchasing a share in their rented home at a discount under the Social HomeBuy pilot scheme assume financial responsibility for all maintenance costs. The Government are currently exploring different options for tenants purchasing small shares.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much on average local authorities in England paid back to the Exchequer from their housing revenue account in each year since 1990. [131845]

Yvette Cooper: Figures for the period 1990-91 to 1993-94 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Details of net negative/positive housing revenue account subsidy amounts for England for the period 1994-95 to 2005-06 (the last year for which audited figures are available) have been given in the following table. In 2001, the Major Repairs Allowance was introduced to increase the resources available to local authorities to improve their housing. The figures given in the table show the housing element of HRA subsidy for 1994-95 to 2003-04 inclusive and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy for 2004-05 and 2005-06. The Local Government Act 2003 changed the way HRA Subsidy is accounted for and the figures are presented in line with current accounting practice. HRA Subsidy for 2004-05 (to date) is the precise equivalent of the housing element in prior years.

Financial year	*Amounts distributed to authorities in deficit*	*Amounts contributed by authorities in surplus*[1]	*Net expenditure by Exchequer*[2]
1994-95	803,583,639	-892,150,955	-88,567,316
1995-96	690,585,862	-1,077,515,215	-390,050,431
1996-97	660,265,906	-1,223,294,361	-563,028,455
1997-98	606,715,419	-1,260,563,048	-668,307,497
1998-99	538,962,811	-1,408,955,122	-869,992,311
1999-2000	484,765,377	-1,525,634,407	-1,040,869,030
2000-01	441,660,519	-1,557,991,956	-1,116,331,437
2001-02	967,053,381	-615,948,372	[3]351,105,009
2002-03	906,718,472	-654,659,330	252,059,142
2003-04	902,327,958	-711,409,278	191,153,240
2004-05	694,206,087	-615,328,703	78,877,384
2005-06	777,572,397	-548,013,415	229,558,982

[1] Prior to 31 March 2004 no surpluses (shown as negative figures) were returned to the Exchequer. HRA Subsidy was paid as a net amount after an offset was made between the housing and rent rebate elements. These amounts were not available to authorities for expenditure on their housing stock as they represent a saving to the Exchequer.

[2] Remaining surpluses after the offset (shown as negative figures) remained with the individual local authority and were transferred to their General Fund and lost to housing. This practice ended on 1 April 2004 and the resources are retained within the subsidy regime.

[3] The introduction of the Major Repairs Allowance on 1 April 2001 reduced surpluses by £1.5 billion and put the national system into overall deficit with the Exchequer making up the difference.

Housing: Water Supply

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role water companies have in the planning of housebuilding programmes; and whether consideration is being given to making them statutory consultees in the planning process. [134382]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* Water companies are already statutory consultees on regional spatial strategies (RSSs) and local development plan documents (DPDs) since water resource issues are an important consideration in determining the pattern of development.

Under the plan-led system, planning applications are determined in accordance with the development plan (the RSS and DPDs) unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Local Government Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from Housing Revenue Account rental income each local authority in England used to pay service debt charges in 2006-07. [133362]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* This information is not yet available; data from local authorities for 2006-07 is not due to be submitted to my Department until 31 December this year.

Mortgages: Public Sector

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of red-lining on the mortgageability of public sector property; what steps she is taking to seek an end to the practice; what assessment she has made of the effect that an extended capping regime would have on the mortgageability of properties; and if she will make a statement. [134206]

Yvette Cooper: No such assessments have been made. It is for individual lenders to decide, in the light of local circumstances, whether to lend on individual properties. However, the Government will not approve a lender for Right to Buy purposes under section 156 of the Housing Act 1985 if inquiries suggest that it operates a policy of not lending on certain types of property.

Overcrowding: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the £19 million to fund innovative schemes to tackle overcrowding in London announced on 20 November 2006 has been allocated, broken down by local authority. [133603]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows the total amount for each borough in receipt of an allocation of regional housing pot funding in 2006-07 for pilot schemes to tackle overcrowding in London:

Local authority	*Allocation (£)*
Brent	2,150,000
Croydon	3,492,735
Greenwich	606,000
Hackney	860,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,000,000
Haringey	120,000
Havering	315,000
Hillingdon	825,000
Islington	760,000
Lambeth	4,280,250
Redbridge	250,000
Southwark	2,772,683
Sutton	120,000
Tower Hamlets	202,000
Westminster	1,395,000
Total	19,148,668

Right to Buy Scheme

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to amend the Housing (Right to Buy) (Information to Secure Tenants) Order 2005 (S.I., 2005, No.1735) to include a requirement that the type of construction and any known defects associated with the type of construction should be included in the seller's information. [134180]

Yvette Cooper: There are no plans to do this. Section 125 of the Housing Act 1985 already requires social landlords to inform tenants who apply to purchase their homes under the Right to Buy scheme of any structural defect known to the landlord.

Right to Buy Scheme: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of council tenants who exercised the right to buy were receiving *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* housing benefit in each of the last five years. [133780]

Yvette Cooper: This information is not collected. The ability of tenants who are in receipt of benefits to exercise their right to buy would depend on the willingness of lenders to offer them mortgage finance, or the availability of financial assistance from family or friends.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people, living in social housing and holding life-time tenancy in England are aged *(a)* 18 to 25, *(b)* 26 to 40, *(c)* 40 to 55 and *(d)* over 55 years. [134064]

Yvette Cooper: Separate figures for those with lifetime tenancies are not available. Figures for the whole of the social rented sector are as follows:

Age of tenant	*Number of households*	*Percentage*
<26	252,000	6.8
26 to 40	898,000	24.3
41 to 55	887,000	24.1
56+	1,650,000	44.7
All	3,687,000	100.0

Source:
ONS, Labour Force Survey

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people living in social housing hold life-time tenancy in England. [134066]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Corporation estimates that at end-March 2006 about 97 per cent. of housing association tenancies were lifetime tenancies. Equivalent figures for local authorities are not available, so an estimate of the total number of lifetime tenancies in social housing cannot be provided.

Social Rented Housing: Insurance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to require registered social landlords to advise their tenants to take out home contents insurance. [134942]

Yvette Cooper: Registered social landlords are required to provide high standards of customer care. Landlords should consider all aspects of this, including insurance. The Housing Corporation has issued good practice guidance on facilitating access to insurance called "Insurance for All" which is available on the corporation's website.

Social Rented Housing: Unemployment

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people living in social housing in England are *(a)* employed and *(b)* unemployed. [134054]

Yvette Cooper: In England, in 2006, an estimated 1,162,000 householders in social housing were employed and 213,000 were unemployed.

The remaining householders in social housing comprised an estimated 1,195,000 retired householders and 1,084,000 householders who were inactive for some other reason.

These figures are derived from the Labour Force Survey, a continuous survey ran by the Office for National Statistics.

Temporary Accommodation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of placing homeless households in long-term placements in temporary accommodation outside their local authority area. [133729]

Yvette Cooper: Under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996), local housing authorities must ensure that suitable accommodation is available for housing applicants accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need. In some cases it may be appropriate for a homeless household to be placed in accommodation outside the local authority area but authorities are required to ensure that, so far as reasonably practicable, accommodation is secured in their district. Moreover, we have issued statutory guidance—the "Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities"—which states that wherever possible the accommodation secured should be as close as possible to where applicants were previously living, so they can retain established links with schools, doctors, social workers and other key services and support essential to the well-being of the household.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 1 May 2007

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Marriage: Licensing

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how much of the £2,148,860 gained in fee income from issuing the Archbishop's Special Licence for marriages has been received by the Church Commissioners. [135142]

Sir Stuart Bell: None.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Office in the last 12 months. [135159]

Mr. Straw: None.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Office in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135376]

Mr. Straw: None.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Kirby

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there were any *(a)* incidents involving and *(b)* prosecutions in which proceedings are not ongoing relating to harmful emissions at the Sonae factory in Kirby in each of the last four years. [134534]

Mr. Bradshaw: Knowsley borough council is responsible for regulating emissions to the atmosphere from this factory under Part I of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations 2000.

The council advises that the number of incidents (both complaints and reported incidents) and prosecutions relating to this factory in the last four years are as follows:

	Complaints	*Reported incidents*	*Prosecutions*
2004	278	49	3
2005	311	152	0
2006	196	24	0
2007	104	8	0

The subject of complaints against Sonae include odour, dust, smoke, fumes, and noise from the Kirby factory. Knowsley borough council advises that a small proportion of the complaints were subsequently found to be unconnected with Sonae. The company has also challenged an unspecified number of complaints.

The number of incidents shown in the table reflects the formal reports which Sonae has submitted. In accordance with their authorisation requirement, Sonae is required to report incidents likely to have an effect on the community. The three prosecutions in 2004 concerned a failure to monitor emissions, failure to comply with an enforcement notice, and failure to comply with an information notice. In total, these resulted in £13,000 worth of fines.

Factories such as this have the potential to emit various substances including oxides of sulphur and nitrogen, particulate matter, lead, volatile organic compounds, isocyanates, and aldehydes.

Avian Influenza: Disease Control

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the testing of live poultry for avian influenza in the protection and surveillance zones in Suffolk referred to in his Department's submission to the European Commission on 5 March was completed before permission was granted to reopen the Bernard Matthews plant in Suffolk; what type of live poultry was tested; what the location was of each of the premises that were tested; and how many birds were tested in each. [134493]

Mr. Bradshaw: During the outbreak, the State Veterinary Service (SVS, now Animal Health) carried out extensive surveillance in the restricted areas working closely with local authorities in Suffolk and Norfolk and other agencies. A full breakdown of the type and numbers of poultry tested along with a map of their locations can be found on pages 16 and 17 of the final epidemiology report into the outbreak we published on 19 April. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

This testing of live poultry within the protection and surveillance zones was completed by 26 February. The Bernard Matthews slaughterhouse plant in Holton was re-opened on 12 February. However, this was a separate premises from the site of the outbreak (although adjacent to it) and was placed under appropriate restrictions only while it was used to cull the birds. The meat processing plant which was also adjacent to the infected premises was never placed under restrictions. Once culling was completed, it was re-licensed to operate only after being thoroughly cleansed and disinfected and inspected by the SVS and Meat Hygiene Service so that it could not pose any disease risk to either poultry or humans.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter of 2 October 2006 from the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. [135396]

Mr. Bradshaw: The hon. Member's letter was transferred to the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department as it concerns a devolved issue.

Packaging: Waste Disposal

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what work he is undertaking with *(a)* food processing companies, *(b)* supermarkets and *(c)* confectionery manufacturers to reduce packaging waste. [134178]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have already introduced two sets of regulations to encourage producers (including retailers) to minimise, recycle and recover packaging and reduce packaging waste.

The Packaging Regulations have helped to reduce the amount of packaging used around products. However, more still needs to be done to reduce the amount of packaging and packaging waste being generated in the first place. We have asked the Advisory Committee on Packaging to work with industry to find solutions to this problem and recommend ways of encouraging businesses to further reduce the amount of packaging they use.

My Department continues to engage with retailers and the food industry to reduce the amount of food and packaging waste generated by the industry itself and by consumers.

In particular, DEFRA's Food Industry Sustainability Strategy (FISS), published in April 2006, challenges the food manufacturing sector to reduce its own waste by 15-20 per cent. by 2010. 13 major grocery retailers (representing 92 per cent. of the UK grocery sector) have also signed up to the "Courtauld Commitment", agreeing to work with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) in order to:

(i) design out packaging waste growth by 2008;

(ii) deliver absolute reductions in packaging waste by March 2010; and

(iii) identify ways to tackle the problem of food waste.

Each retailer signed up to the Commitment has been developing its own programme of work with WRAP to reduce packaging and packaging waste. A number of retailers have now announced their own specific performance targets on waste and other environmental issues.

In addition, several food and drink brands and manufacturers, including some confectionary manufacturers, have now signed up to the Courtauld Commitment. WRAP will shortly be announcing further details.

WRAP also provides technical and financial support to retailers and suppliers through an innovation fund. This is helping to identify ways of reducing the weight of primary packaging and the cost of production and transportation, mainly through research and development and innovative packaging design.

Importantly, DEFRA, working with WRAP and the devolved administrations, has recently secured the agreement of UK retailers to reduce the overall environmental impact of their carrier bags by 25 per cent. by the end of 2008.

Rabies: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to change the existing arrangements for the control of rabies. [134342]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA is currently carrying out a review of rabies import policy to ensure that UK controls on all rabies-susceptible mammals are proportionate and sustainable.

The review is nearing completion. The evidence received so far from government vets, officials and veterinary risk assessments indicates that our current controls may no longer be proportionate to the risk of rabies entering the UK. Therefore, we may need to consider modernising processes and regulation in this area. Our controls must also be consistent with current thinking on better regulation. I have requested further views before reaching conclusions.

Sewage

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to ensure that back-up pumps are available in circumstances where primary sewage pumps fail and effluent is discharged into rivers, watercourses or the open sea; and if he will make a statement. [134077]

Ian Pearson: Under the Water Resources Act 1991, the Environment Agency requires all sewage pumping stations to have duty pumps and standby pumps that are capable of pumping the received flow in the event of a pump failure. This is a condition of consent to discharge, and it is the sewerage undertaker's responsibility to ensure that their pumps are fully operational at all times.

Water

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many households in England were subject to water restrictions in 2006. [134494]

Ian Pearson: During 2006, about 16 million people were subject to restrictions on water use. In most cases, this involved hosepipe bans. However, a single drought order, allowing restrictions to be placed on non-essential uses of water, was partially implemented by Sutton and East Surrey Water.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effects on health of emissions from aircraft. [134129]

Gillian Merron: Airport operators are expected to undertake appropriate health impact assessments when bringing forward any expansion plans. "Air Quality Assessments Supporting the Government's White Paper" was published alongside "The Future of Air Transport" in December 2003; this covers Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Birmingham airports. The document is on the internet at http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/air/docs/airqualityassessmentssupport5665.

Future levels of ambient air quality are being studied as part of the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow. The Air Quality Technical Report, published in July 2006 found that the key pollutants are nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and particulate matter (PM10), for which there are EU limit values aimed at reducing harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.

Bicycles: Accidents

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female cyclists were killed in accidents involving heavy goods vehicles in the last three years for which figures are available. [135309]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of *(a)* male and *(b)* female pedal cyclists that have been killed in reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one heavy goods vehicles in each of the last three years for which figures are available is given in the table.

Male and female pedal cycle fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents involving at least one heavy goods vehicle, GB 2003-05

	2003	2004	2005
Male	14	15	23
Female	12	7	3

Galileo Project

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his estimate is of the cost of the Galileo project. [133774]

Dr. Ladyman: In its Communication to the Council and Parliament of February 2004, which set out the components of the Galileo programme, the European Commission evaluated the costs of the current development and deployment stage as €3.2 billion. Subsequently, Vice-President Barrot stated in December 2006 that the overall financial exposure for the public side over the 20-year period of the public private partnership (PPP) concession contract would be around €8 billion.

Given the lack of progress in the concession contract negotiations, the March 2007 Transport Council has asked the Commission to consider alternative scenarios for taking the project forward. As with the PPP these alternative scenarios will be assessed for cost, risk and affordability.

Once the Council has taken a decision on these scenarios it is expected that the Commission will then bring forward a draft EC financial instrument on the funding of Galileo during 2007-13 for the Council and the European Parliament to ratify. There has been no political discussion of potential funding commitments for the public sector beyond 2013.

Park and Ride Schemes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other support is offered to local authorities who wish to establish park and ride schemes; and if he will make a statement. [134647]

Gillian Merron: Most schemes are funded through the integrated transport block, which the Department allocates to support local transport plans (LTPs). The funding is for local authorities to invest in transport capital works, including park and ride, according to their local plans and priorities. It totals £571 million for 2007-08.

During the first LTP period (2001-06), local transport authorities in England (outside of London) spent a total of £72.5 million of LTP funding on improving 92 existing park and ride facilities and delivering 76 new park and ride schemes. In recognition of this, the Department gave credit in its assessment of delivery of the first local transport plans to those authorities that delivered substantial increases in park and ride facilities.

Railways: Smoking

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure that rail companies inform passengers of the forthcoming smoking ban on stations. [134393]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department of Health (DoH) is conducting a significant communications campaign aimed at the public to ensure maximum awareness of the smoke free legislation before its implementation on 1 July. The Department for Transport has discussed the issue of communication with rail passengers with ATOC and Network Rail and provided advice to DoH on issues such as enforcement and signage arrangements on the rail network.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress the UK has made in meeting its commitment to double aid to Africa by 2010. [134392]

Hilary Benn: The UK Government are party to the European Union (EU) pledge to reach a collective target for the Overseas Development Assistance to Gross National Income ratio (ODA/GNI) of 0.56 per cent. by 2010, estimated to nearly double total aid between 2004 and 2010, with at least 50 per cent. of the increase going to Africa. The UK also announced a timetable to reach 0.7 per cent. ODA/GNI by 2013 and committed to double its bilateral spending in Africa between 2003-04 and 2007-08. The G8 Gleneagles 2005 communiqué stated that the commitments of the G8 and other donors would lead to an increase in ODA to Africa of $25 billion a year by 2010, more than doubling aid to Africa compared to 2004.

The UK Government are on track to honour our commitments. Total ODA/GNI ratio increased from 0.36 per cent. in 2004 to 0.52 per cent. in 2006. Provisional figures show that UK ODA to sub-Saharan Africa increased from £1.2 billion in 2004 to £2.9 billion in 2006, with debt relief accounting for much of this increase. The Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral programme of aid to sub-Saharan Africa is set at £1.25 billion for 2007-08.

ODA to sub-Saharan Africa from all donors of the Development Assistance Committee rose by $10 billion, or 59 per cent. in real terms, between 2004 and 2006. We will continue to engage with G8 and EU partners to encourage others also to keep to their aid volume commitments.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid to *(a)* the Adam Smith Institute, *(b)* Accenture and *(c)* KPMG for work in each of the last six years. [134628]

Hilary Benn: The information is as follows:

£

	Adam Smith Institute	*Accenture*	*KPMG*
2001-02	473,171	0	5,135,556
2002-03	0	0	2,406,887
2003-04	0	0	40,752
2004-05	0	41,374	0
2005-06	0	15,510	0
2006-07	0	113,750	0

DFID also has contracts with Adam Smith International Ltd., which is a separate self-financing commercial organisation. Data during the same period is as follows:

	Adam Smith International (£)
2001-02	9,139,631
2002-03	7,050,474
2003-04	9,383,626
2004-05	8,786,406
2005-06	13,964,873
2006-07	14,754,673

These organisations have undertaken a range of public service reforms, in accordance with the requirements of development recipients. Examples are support to the South African Government's restructuring of state-owned organisations, and capacity building support for the Afghanistan Ministry of Commerce.

Iraq: Asylum

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution the UK Government has made to the UN High Commission for Refugees for aid to assist Iraqi refugees and displaced persons; and if he will make a statement. [134593]

Hilary Benn: DFID has contributed £1.5 million in response to the UN High Commission for Refugees' (UNHCR) appeal for Iraqi refugees and displaced persons. The appeal will provide food, shelter, water and sanitation and legal protection mechanisms for Iraqi refugees across the region. This appeal is now almost fully funded.

Our support to UNHCR's appeal is part of a wider £10 million contribution that DFID has made since January to provide emergency relief and other services to displaced and vulnerable Iraqis. This takes our total humanitarian assistance to over £125 million since 2003.

Overseas Aid

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of bilateral assistance to *(a)* Malawi, *(b)* Zambia, *(c)* Ghana, *(d)* Uganda, *(e)* Sierra Leone, *(f)* Rwanda, *(g)* Vietnam, *(h)* Pakistan, *(i)* Nepal and *(j)* East Timor was delivered by direct budget support in 2005-06; and what projections he has made for future delivery of direct budget support as a proportion of overall bilateral aid up to 2009-10. [131310]

Hilary Benn: Poverty Reduction Budget Support (PRBS) is DFID's term for aid provided to a partner government to support that government's poverty reduction programmes which is spent using the government's own financial management, procurement and accountability systems. PRBS is also commonly known as direct budget support.

We deliver PRBS in many different ways in different countries, depending on the objectives we are trying to achieve and the particular risks we face.

General budget support is provided to the government to support implementation of the overall poverty reduction strategy. It is allocated and spent by the government across all sectors to achieve overall progress against multiple poverty reduction objectives. General budget support has the advantage of supporting the government's overall policies for addressing poverty and reinforces the role of the Ministry of Finance in allocating resources across government in the most effective way.

Sector budget support is normally provided to the government to support implementation of a particular sector strategy and achieve particular improvements in for example health, education or road infrastructure. In some countries this can be a more effective way of

achieving development in particular sectors. Sector budget support can also be a more effective way of delivering aid where there are high fiduciary or political risks—in some countries we track our resources to the sector or sub-sector to ensure that they are spent in that sector.

The proportion of DFID's bilateral assistance delivered as PRBS in 2005-06 and projections up to 2007-08 for each country are given in the following table. Projections are based on PRBS commitments DFID has made to partner governments together with the current allocation of DFID bilateral aid to the relevant countries. Projections beyond 2007-08 will not be available until the comprehensive spending review is concluded later this year. East Timor did not receive any PRBS from DFID in financial year 2005-06 and is not projected to receive any in following years.

	Level of PRBS (£ million)	*Proportion of DFID aid framework (Percentage)*	*Status*
(a) Malawi			
2005-06	34.3	49	Actuals
2006-07	33.2	53	Projection
2007-08	37.0	53	Projection
(b) Zambia			
2005-06	20.7	44	Actuals
2006-07	26.2	64	Projection
2007-08	25.0	63	Projection
(c) Ghana			
2005-06	47.7	56	Actuals
2006-07	53.6	76	Projection
2007-08	57.7	82	Projection
(d) Uganda			
2005-06	30.0	45	Actuals
2006-07	40.0	53	Projection
2007-08	35.0	50	Projection
(e) Sierra Leone			
2005-06	15.0	47	Actuals
2006-07	12.5	40	Projection
2007-08	[1]—	[1]—	
(f) Rwanda			
2005-06	[2]56.8	[2]83	Actuals
2006-07	[2]2.6	[2]15	Projection
2007-08	35.0	76	Projection
(g) Vietnam			
2005-06	34.0	61	Actuals
2006-07	34.0	68	Projection
2007-08	31.8	64	Projection
(h) Pakistan			
2005-06	42.5	59	Actuals
2006-07	62.5	69	Projection
2007-08	47.5	47	Projection
(i) Nepal			
2005-06	8.7	26	Actuals
2006-07	4.9	13	Projection
2007-08	9.0	27	Projection

[1] Not available—pending decision in July.
[2] Reflects additional tranche of General Budget Support paid in 2005-06 and resulting adjustment in 2006-07 figures.

Further information on Poverty Reduction Budget Support will be published in the Departmental Report in May.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of bilateral assistance to *(a)* Kenya, *(b)* Mozambique, *(c)* India and *(d)* Afghanistan was delivered by direct budget support in 2005-06; and what projections he has made for future delivery of direct budget support as a proportion of overall bilateral aid up to 2009-10. [131407]

Hilary Benn: Poverty reduction budget support (PRBS) is DFID's term for aid provided to a partner government to support that government's poverty reduction programmes, which is spent using the government's own financial management, procurement and accountability systems. PRBS is also commonly known as direct budget support.

We deliver PRBS in many different ways in different countries, depending on the objectives we are trying to achieve and the particular risks we face.

General budget support is provided to the government to support implementation of the overall poverty reduction strategy. It is allocated and spent by the government across all sectors to achieve overall progress against multiple poverty reduction objectives. General budget support has the advantage of supporting the government's overall policies for addressing poverty and reinforces the role of the Ministry of Finance in allocating resources across government in the most effective way.

Sector budget support is normally provided to the government to support implementation of a particular sector strategy and achieve particular improvements in for example health, education or road infrastructure. In some countries this can be a more effective way of achieving development in particular sectors. Sector budget support can also be a more effective way of delivering aid where there are high fiduciary or political risks—in some countries we track our resources to the sector or sub-sector to ensure that they are spent in that sector.

Kenya and Afghanistan did not receive any PRBS from DFID in financial year 2005-06 and are not currently projected to receive any over the following financial years.

The proportion of DFID bilateral assistance delivered as PRBS in 2005-06 and projections up to 2007-8 for both Mozambique and India are given in the table. Projections are based on PRBS commitments

DFID has made to partner governments together with the current allocation of DFID bilateral aid to the relevant countries. Projections beyond 2007-08 will not be available until the comprehensive spending review is concluded later this year.

(b) Mozambique

	Level of PRBS (£ million)	Percentage of DFID aid framework	Status
2005-06	41.3	73	Actuals
2006-07	36.0	80	Projection
2007-08	41.0	68	Projection

(c) India

	Level of PRBS (£ million)	Percentage of DFID aid framework	Status
2005-06	79.5	32	Actuals
2006-07	71.8	30	Projection
2007-08	83.0	31	Projection

Further information on poverty reduction budget support will be published in the departmental report in May.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will resume aid to the Palestinian territories. [134517]

Hilary Benn: The Government continue their substantial programme of assistance to the occupied Palestinian territories (oPts). In the financial year just ended (2006-07), DFID provided £15 million in assistance to the oPts plus a further £15 million for Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Gaza, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. These figures represent a £0.5 million increase on the previous financial year and are in addition to the UK's share of European Community (EC) funding. Overall, European Union (EC and member states) aid was estimated to be 27 per cent. higher in 2006 than in 2005.

Since the formation of a Hamas government in March 2006, DFID has provided the majority of its assistance through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) and the EU's temporary international mechanism (TIM). UNRWA and the TIM have enabled DFID and many other donors to provide direct assistance to support the livelihoods of Palestinian people and maintain essential services.

Sudan: Elections

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking *(a)* to assist the facilitation of elections in the Sudan in 2009 and *(b)* to ensure that such elections are free, fair and inclusive. [134931]

Hilary Benn: Supporting a free, fair and inclusive election process is a core commitment of the Government of National Unity and the International Community under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and it is important that both sides deliver on their commitments. The first step is for the National Constitutional Review Commission (NCRC) to formulate the Election Law and for this to be passed by the National Assembly. The Election Law will establish the National Electoral Commission which will be responsible for the running of the elections. DFID and other donors have provided support to the NCRC to assist in preparation of the Election Law. Once the Election Law is passed a full programme of election support will be provided jointly with other donors. This will include training for the National Assembly in Election Law to ensure effective scrutiny of the Election Bill, and support for a monitoring and observation process to ensure effective oversight of the preparations for elections, and the election themselves.

DFID has already provided support for the consultations around the elections process, nationally and in the South. We have also sponsored a visit for four members of the NCRC to observe the Scottish Elections on 3 May. This will provide an opportunity for Sudanese officials to witness a "mixed" electoral system in operation, a model which may be applicable for Sudan.

DFID is also working with the embassy on a joint programme to boost the capacity of political parties, and to provide training for journalists on the reporting of elections. Together, we have initiated a working group with members from the international community in Khartoum, which meets regularly to ensure that we are approaching this task together.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure that international donors fulfil the pledges for $4.5 billion made at the Oslo conference 2005 for humanitarian assistance and reconstruction in Sudan. [135259]

Hilary Benn: DFID pledged $545 million in Oslo for the period 2005-07. Actual disbursement has been much higher; DFID disbursed over $500 million during 2005-06, and our financial commitment for 2007 is $205 million. We are seeking greater clarity on the exact status of other donors' pledges. From figures available we believe that most donors have also honoured or exceeded their Oslo pledges. At the recent Sudan Consortium held in Khartoum and Juba on 19-21 May, the international community re-iterated its commitment to helping Sudan implement the comprehensive peace agreement. DFID will continue to track closely levels of development assistance to Sudan through effective dialogue with other donors both in-country and at headquarters level.

Unfortunately the ongoing conflict in Darfur has meant that the bulk of donor resources are being used for humanitarian assistance, rather than reconstruction. We have made it clear to the Government of National Unity that a resolution to the conflict in Darfur is essential if international donor assistance is to be directed towards long-term development in Sudan.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Age: Discrimination

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what protection is in place for pensioners who experience age discrimination in the provision of goods and services; and if she will make a statement. [134019]

Meg Munn: There is currently no legal protection from age discrimination in the provision of goods and services. The Government are considering whether there is a case for introducing legislation to prohibit harmful age discrimination in the provision of goods and services as part of the Discrimination Law Review. The proposals emerging from the review will be published for public consultation in May.

Council Tax: Essex

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 315W to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, on the Valuation Office, how many domestic properties in the local authority area of *(a)* Epping Forest district council and *(b)* Brentwood district council are classified with a Value Significant Code of FC. [124362]

Mr. Woolas: As at 3 February 2007 there were (a) 360 and (b) 574 domestic properties classified with a dwelling house code of FC in *(a)* Epping Forest district council and *(b)* Brentwood borough council.

Council Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Valuation Office Agency takes to inform neighbouring houses of incorrect council tax banding when a property successfully appeals against an incorrect banding. [127058]

Mr. Woolas: All alterations to bandings are published on the Valuation Office Agency website at www.voa.gov.uk and can also be viewed in the hard copy of the council tax valuation list held by the relevant local authority at their offices.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 315W to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, on the Valuation Office, if she will list the mechanisms by which the Agency gathers and obtains information on whether a property has an outbuilding; [124363]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1327W to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, on the Valuation Office Agency, whether the photographs of properties which are provided by Rightmove include internal photographs of the property; [124366]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 315W to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, on the Valuation Office, what the Valuation Office Agency's definition is of a bathroom; and whether a room with a shower but not a bath is classified as a bathroom; [124431]

(4) whether *(a)* solar panels and *(b)* a small wind turbine would be considered by the Valuation Office Agency when assessing the capital value of a domestic dwelling for a council tax valuation or revaluation; [124480]

(5) whether the Valuation Office Agency collates information on whether domestic dwellings have *(a)* double glazing, *(b)* solar panels and *(c)* wind turbines. [124534]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1731W to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, on the Valuation Office Agency, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's guidance manual for staff on using the Market Comparable Reporting Tool. [124365]

Mr. Woolas: "Market Comparable Reporting Tool" is the name given by Rightmove.co.uk to its archive database, to which the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has web-based access under the terms of a contract between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Rightmove.co.uk plc. Guidance on the use of the bespoke website was contained in Instructions and Advice issued to VOA staff on 18 July 2005. This document was placed in the House of Commons Library pursuant to a question from the hon. Member answered on 26 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 447W and is available on the VOA website.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency has valued for council tax banding purposes the residential development of 68 apartments and houses on the land at the former Renny Lodge hospital, London road, Newport Pagnell. [124412]

Mr. Woolas: I understand a number of developments are taking place on this site. Council tax bandings are entered in the council tax valuation list as and when the dwellings are completed and occupied. One of the developments on this site by Crest Nicholson, which I understand comprises 68 apartments, is not yet ready and has not yet been banded.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1327-28W, on the Valuation Office Agency, whether the information on properties by Rightmove includes information on the number of *(a)* bathrooms, *(b)* bedrooms and *(c)* parking spaces as part of the property. [124656]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* titles and *(b)* dates of publication were of the council tax instruction and advice notes and associated documents issued by the Valuation Office Agency to assist staff between January 2002 and December 2004. [127043]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reasons are for the difference between the number of domestic dwellings on council tax valuation lists and the number of households according to the 2001 census. [127055]

Mr. Woolas: The census is a snapshot in time of household numbers. Council tax valuation lists show numbers of dwellings and are constantly changing to reflect new entries and deletions.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by her Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134056]

Angela E. Smith: For the last 10 years, Communities and Local Government and its predecessors have used recycled paper for all photocopying and printed publications.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings took place between Ministers and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date was of each such meeting. [131036]

Angela E. Smith: This information is available in the Freedom of Information Disclosure Log on the Communities and Local Government website at the following links:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1509991
for meetings in January;

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1509529
for meetings in February; and

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1509989
for meetings in March.

Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legal advice she took on whether the current local government restructuring process conformed with the Local Government Act 1992. [134876]

Mr. Woolas: It is not the usual practice for Governments to disclose whether or not they have sought legal advice, or the content of such advice, and it would not be appropriate for me to do so in this case.

Unitary Councils: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for consideration by her Department of North Yorkshire County Council's bid for a unitary authority in North Yorkshire; what recent representations she has received on the bid; what public consultations have been undertaken on the matter; and if she will make a statement. [135007]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 71-73WS.

Unitary Councils: Referendums

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the merits of referenda as a suitable gauge of public opinion in the stakeholder consultation for suitability of bids for unitary authority status. [134874]

Mr. Woolas: As our invitation makes clear, after the stakeholder consultation we will reassess the proposals against the five criteria, having regard to all the representations and information we receive during the consultation, including information about the results of any local referendums.

Valuation Office Agency

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Valuation Office Agency document Dwellinghouse coding: An illustrated guide was *(a)* first published and *(b)* last amended. [128545]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what legislation the Valuation Office Agency have the right to retain photographs of the interiors of people's homes; and if she will make a statement. [124814]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 13 March 2007]*: The Local Government Finance Act 1992 gives listing officers of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) the statutory responsibility to compile valuation lists in England and Wales for council tax purposes. Information is necessarily retained in order that the VOA can carry out its functions.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures her Department has in place to ensure that photographs taken by the Valuation Office Agency do not infringe on personal privacy rights; and if she will make a statement. [124815]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 13 March 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2007 to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, *Official Report*, column 1328W, on the Valuation Office Agency, whether the Information Commissioner has provided advice or guidance on the contract with Rightmove. [127113]

Mr. Woolas: No.

Valuation Office: Contracts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the contract between the Valuation Office Agency and Rightmove. [124472]

Mr. Woolas: The contract is between HMRC, as parent department of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), and Rightmove.co.uk plc. This document is commercially confidential and cannot be placed in the public domain.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the Valuation Office Agency decided to sign the contract with Rightmove for a specific period of 34 months with the 12 month option to extend. [124473]

Mr. Woolas: Information connected with the contract between HMRC, parent department of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), and Rightmove.co.uk plc is commercially confidential and cannot be placed in the public domain.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Valuation Office Agency paid to Rightmove.co.uk plc in each year since 2004-05. [124477]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the Valuation Office Agency's published Annual Report and Accounts 2005-06, available on the VOA's website. Total payments for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 are shown at page 62 under 'Other Operating Costs' against the cost head of 'Data capture'. Information for the year 2006-07 is not yet available.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what area of the UK Rightmove is supplying the Valuation Office Agency with property information. [124478]

Mr. Woolas: Information accessible by the Valuation Office Agency on Rightmove.co.uk's archive database covers England only.

Valuation Office: Electronic Equipment

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Valuation Office Agency spent on digital cameras and related electronic equipment in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 to date; and how many cameras were purchased in each of those years. [127062]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the earlier answer, 30 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 587W. No further expenditure took place in that year. Expenditure in 2006-07 will be available once the accounts are finalised.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Culture: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what cultural events her Department is *(a)* organising and *(b)* helping to fund in the London borough of Havering in the next 12 months. [134590]

Mr. Lammy: The DCMS is helping to fund cultural events in Havering through its NDPBs. Arts Council England (ACE) funds the Queens Theatre and a number of poetry events through the Spread The Word Literature Development Agency. ACE is also supporting the development of the Thames Gateway Dance Partnership, the Thames Gateway Arts Framework and 2012 planning for the Gateway boroughs.

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council are supporting the Libraries for Learners project and are working with the London borough of Havering on the Thames Gateway Cultural Strategy and advising on the establishment of a new museum service for the borough.

The UK Film Council operates two funds, the London Borough Film Fund Challenge and Film London's EAST project, which Havering could directly benefit from, dependent on successful application.

In addition, Havering has received £200,113 in Lottery funding from Arts Council England and £505,265 from the Heritage Lottery Fund since the Lottery began in 1995.

Gambling: Licensing

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications have been received by the Gambling Commission for remote operating licences under the Gambling Act 2005. [134843]

Mr. Caborn: At 27 April, the Gambling Commission had received and classified 95 remote operating licence applications.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assumptions her Department has made in calculating the Gambling Commission's forecast cost and revenues on the number of remote operating licence applications it expects to be made under the Gambling Act 2005. [134844]

Mr. Caborn: In line with HM Treasury Fees and Charges Guide, the costs of the Gambling Commission undertaking its regulatory activities would include the

full direct and allocated costs (including depreciation) of the regulatory and licensing regime allocated appropriately to avoid any cross-subsidisation between categories and types of fees and all costs of enforcement.

Estimates of costs and revenues were generated from the Commission's independently created model which reflected the assumptions used to establish the Commission's initial budget based on the limited information available at that time. These assumptions will be kept under review in the light of actual experience of the operation of the new regulatory and licensing regime.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assumptions her Department has made on the number of applications for remote operating licences under the Gambling Act 2005 that will be made before 1 September. [134845]

Mr. Caborn: Based on the information available and set out in the consultation document on Gambling Commission fees published in July 2006, the Commission estimated that the average number of operators in each type and category of licensable activity requiring a remote operating licence from 1 September 2007 was 57.

At 27 April 2007, the Gambling Commission had received and classified 95 remote operating licence applications including a larger than expected number of applications for licences from telephone betting operators.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department plans to take to strengthen its use of evidence to inform policy making as recommended in its Capability Review; and what assessment has been made of the use of evidence in developing the regulatory order to implement the Gambling Act 2005. [134853]

Mr. Caborn: The Department's plan for responding to the Capability Review is outlined in the Permanent Secretary's response to the Capability Review (pages 5-8) and in "Transforming DCMS", the transformation action plan. Both are published on the DCMS website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/

Implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 is based on evidence, including that generated by extensive consultation with stakeholders on a wide range of issues.

Gaming Machines

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 713W, if she will publish the proposals that have already been drafted to ensure that gaming machines comply with sections 240 and 241 of the Gambling Act 2005. [135074]

Mr. Caborn: The Department's draft proposals under sections 240 and 241 of the Gambling Act 2005 were set out in a formal consultation paper. I am arranging for copies of the consultation paper to be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Sport

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment her Department has made of the impact of the diversion of funding from the Big Lottery Fund to the 2012 Olympics upon *(a)* the efforts of statutory agencies to promote physical activity and *(b)* the Government's target of 50 per cent. of adults meeting the recommended minimum level of physical activity by 2011; and if she will make a statement. [134783]

Mr. Caborn: The Big Lottery Fund will be contributing just over £638 million to the £1,085 million to be transferred, subject to Parliamentary approval, from non-Olympic Lottery proceeds to the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF) between 2009 and 2012. Naturally, this will affect the rate at which the Fund is able to commit and spend money in all the areas it supports. The Department has made no assessment of the likely impact on any particular area, as future programmes are for the Big Lottery Fund to design. However, the Government's intention is that no existing lottery project will be affected, and we have also agreed with the Big Lottery Fund that resources for the voluntary sector will be protected. On the basis of the Department's current income projections, the Fund should still receive approximately £2 billion in fresh Lottery income during the four financial years in which the proposed transfers to the OLDF will be made.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how she plans to monitor the level of change in participation in sports and physical activity resulting from London's hosting of the Olympics *(a)* before, *(b)* during and *(c)* after the event takes place; whether the Government have made any predictions of the likely level of changes; and if she will make a statement. [134784]

Mr. Caborn: We currently use the Taking Part survey to monitor sports participation at the national level and to report on our public service agreement (PSA) on sport participation. Sport England's Active People survey is used to monitor participation at the local level. We will continue to use surveys such as these to monitor the level of change in participation before, during and after the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

We have not made predictions about the likely level of change in participation; however the Government have set a very stretching PSA target to increase by 3 per cent. by 2008 the number of people from priority groups who participate in sport. PSA targets beyond 2008 have not yet been set.

Sports: Grants

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much money from *(a)* the Big Lottery Fund and *(b)* other lottery distributors, including sports councils, was spent on grassroots sport and other schemes which promote physical activity among adults in each of the last five years. [134757]

Mr. Caborn: Lottery money has always paid for a very wide range of projects from kit for local teams to investments in major stadia and sports halls. There is no accepted definition of what constitutes "grass roots" investment or otherwise in this range.

However total Lottery funds spent by the Big Lottery Fund and the Sports Councils on sport (excluding UK Sport which has a clear high performance remit) in each of the last five years is as follows:

£ million

Lottery funding	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Grand total*
Big Lottery Fund	4,801,339	31,618,846	84,993,116	250,237,156	[1]222,581,300	[1]594,231,757
Sport England	307,958,000	237,400,000	170,700,000	202,100,000	121,400,000	1,039,558,000
Sports Council for Wales	20,632,200	20,769,763	18,888,000	12,662,000	10,649,000	83,600,963
Sport Scotland	17,395,792	33,565,723	28,977,187	23,524,041	21,897,783	125,360,526
Sports Council Northern Ireland	5,665,747	3,904,620	5,939,011	6,651,167	7,975,994	30,136,539
Total	356,453,078	327,258,952	309,497,314	495,174,364	384,504,077	1,872,887,785

[1] Figures from the Big Lottery Fund were only available to 28 February 2007 because of technical problems with accessing the month of March 2007 data.

Notes:

Figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

Figures shown are 'drawdown' which most accurately represents spend on sport in that year. Figures for 'Income' (to distributors from the NLDF) or 'awards' (made to projects in that year) would give a slightly different picture as, for example, cash would not always flow against awards in that same year.

Figures for Sports Councils include contributions to Awards for All.

BLF figures include:

New Opportunities for PE and Sport (NOPES)

Community Sport Initiative (from 2004-05)—A UK wide initiative tailored for each country, for example, in England the Active England programme is a joint initiative with Sport England. Big Lottery Fund contributed £77.5 million and Sport England contributed £31 million.

School Sports Co-ordinators funding (from 2003-04)

Big Lottery Fund figures do not include Awards for All or other Lottery programmes which may have funded sport or physical activity indirectly.

Sports: Young People

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures are being taken to increase participation in competitive sport among young people in *(a)* Romford and *(b)* England. [134587]

Mr. Caborn: Through the National School Sport Strategy the Government are revitalising competitive school sport in England.

The 2005-06 School Sport Survey showed the following data for competitive sport for the three School Sport Partnerships (SSPs) which fall within Romford constituency:

Coopers Company & Coborn SSP

All schools held a competitive sports day;

72 per cent. of pupils were involved in intra-school competition; and

35 per cent. of pupils from years 4-11 were involved in inter-school competition.

Davenant Foundation SSP

All schools held a competitive sports day;

77 per cent. of pupils were involved in intra-school competition; and

43 per cent. of pupils from years 4-11 were involved in inter-school competition.

Emerson Park SSP

All schools held a competitive sports day;

72 per cent. of pupils were involved in intra-school competition; and

31 per cent. of pupils from years 4-11 were involved in inter-school competition.

Nationally the 2005-06 survey showed that:

97 per cent. of schools held a competitive sports day;

71 per cent. of pupils were involved in intra-school competition; and

37 per cent. of pupils from years 4-11 were involved in inter-school competition, a rise of 12 per cent. on 2003-04.

To continue to improve the quality and quantity of competitive school sport we are implementing a network of Competition Managers across School Sport Partnerships. Currently schools within the Davenant Foundation SSP are benefiting from access to a team of Competition Managers appointed from September 2006.

Sport England advise that in 2006 1,040 young people were engaged in preliminary London Youth Games events in the London borough of Havering. An additional 386 young people went to the finals, 315 of which attended the main games and 71 attended the mini-games at Crystal Palace.

In addition, we have established the UK School Games (UKSG). This is an annual event that will become the pinnacle of competitive school sport. The 2006 UKSG took place in Glasgow with 1,200 young competitors. The 2007 UKSG will take place in Coventry.

Works of Art: Valuation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 613-4W, on works of art: valuation, what information is required to ensure that a valuation is properly justified; and to what extent the Reviewing Committee can reduce a valuation for a UK purchaser. [134896]

Mr. Lammy: Where an item has been sold at auction, the applicant is required to provide a copy of the entry in the sale catalogue and proof of the price at which

the item was sold. Where the valuation represents a private treaty sale or agreement to sell, the applicant is required to provide the written agreement or a certified copy of it, together with any related invoices and to confirm whether the sale agreement represents a single transaction that will not be affected by any other existing or subsequent transactions between the owner and the purchaser. Where the valuation represents an estimate, the applicant is required to provide details of the estimate with background information explaining how the value was reached.

The Reviewing Committee may recommend a valuation different from that proposed by the applicant where it considers that there are reasonable grounds to support such a recommendation. It may also recommend that the Secretary of State seek an independent valuation of the work of art in question.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 613-4W, on works of art: valuation, what the investigative powers are of the Reviewing Committee into valuations. [134897]

Mr. Lammy: The Committee has no formal powers of investigation, but may request the applicant to provide information to substantiate a valuation before, during and after the case hearing. If someone who applies for a licence fails to provide adequate information on valuation as requested by the Committee, the Committee may decline to make a recommendation on valuation and recommend that the Secretary of State seek an independent valuation.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 613-4W, on works of art: valuation, how many times an independent valuation varied from the valuation submitted to the Reviewing Committee in each of the last 10 years; and what steps were taken when this happened. [134898]

Mr. Lammy: Over the last 10 years there has been one occasion where an independent valuation varied from the valuation submitted to the Reviewing Committee. In this case, the Committee took into account all the available evidence and recommended a lower valuation than that provided by the applicant.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what submunitions are contained in the M270 tracked multiple launch rocket system that is being deployed to Afghanistan; whether he classifies these submunitions as dumb or not-dumb; and if he will make a statement. [125033]

Mr. Ingram: The M270 tracked multiple launch rocket launcher will be deployed with the new Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) rockets.

Each GMLRS rocket has a unitary (single munition) high explosive warhead, it does not employ submunitions.

Ammunition: Iraq

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the percentage of smart cluster munitions which fail to explode immediately. [134773]

Mr. Ingram: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 800W, to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith).

Armed Forces: Dogs

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average daily cost of feeding a dog in military service was in each of the last three years, broken down by service. [134092]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 26 April 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1648W.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions his Department has been unable to fulfil an agreed whole-time equivalent number of staff in *(a)* Ministry of Defence hospital units and *(b)* NHS trusts in each year since 2001; and how much financial compensation has been paid as a consequence. [133147]

Derek Twigg: The number of occasions when the agreed whole-time equivalent numbers have not been achieved, and the costs of meeting these shortfalls, are detailed as follows. The relevant contracts with the NHS trusts have provided for the Department to pay for civilian locum or agency replacements only since financial year 2005-06. Before then the contractual terms provided for lower levels of payment to be made by the trusts to the Department for the agreed service.

In financial year 2005-06 there were 33 occasions when the agreed whole time equivalent numbers to be provided to NHS trusts hosting Ministry of Defence hospital units were not reached. The total sum reimbursed to the NHS trusts concerned was £1.34 million.

To date, 27 such occasions have been identified for financial year 2006-07 and the total cost of reimbursement has been £1.01 million.

There has been no shortfall in either financial year in the provision of agreed whole time equivalent numbers to any other NHS Trusts hosting military medical personnel.

Civilian Global Navigation System

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the potential implications for British national security of European proposals to institute a civilian global navigation system. [134353]

Mr. Hoon: I have been asked to reply.

The UK welcomes the development of Galileo, Europe's civil global navigation satellite system, under civil control, and its many civil applications. We will continue to scrutinise Galileo's development so that any national security implications that could arise from the programme or its applications can be dealt with appropriately.

Defence

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the formal *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence which (i) he, (ii) other Ministers in his Department and (iii) officials in his Department have had in an official capacity with representatives from the defence industry since 1 December 2006; when each meeting took place; who attended each meeting; what the subject was of each meeting; and if he will make a statement. [129394]

Mr. Ingram: Defence Ministers have held the following meetings with defence manufacturers between 1 December 2006 and 31 March 2007.

Secretary of State

18 January—Met with representatives of Vosper Thornycroft and Fleet Support Ltd. during a visit to HM Naval Base, Portsmouth.

Minister for Defence Procurement (Minister for Defence Equipment and Support from 6 March 2007)

10 January—Attendance at a BAE Systems Leadership Meeting.

15 January—Meeting with representatives from BAe to discuss UK/FR high level working group.

16 January—Meeting of the National Defence Industry Council.

17 January—Meeting with representatives from General Dynamic UK to discuss the FRES project.

18 January—Meeting with representatives from British Nuclear Group to discuss decommissioning of redundant nuclear submarines.

18 January—Meeting with a representative from Ventures Business Research to discuss possible areas co-operation.

24 January—Meeting with a representative from Babcock to discuss the Maritime Industrial Strategy.

24 January—Meeting with representatives from Currie and Brown to discuss management IT software opportunities.

25 January—Meeting with representatives from Carlyle Group to discuss the Maritime Industrial Strategy.

29 January—Meeting with representatives from Agusta Westland to discuss helicopters.

30 January—Meeting with representatives from Raytheon to discuss a range of equipment issues.

1 February—Meeting with representatives from the Carlyle Group to discuss QinetiQ.

22 February—Meeting with representatives from Eurocopter to discuss helicopters.

22 February—Meeting with representatives from VT Group to discuss the Maritime Industrial Strategy.

28 February—Meeting with representatives form BAE Systems to discuss munitions.

1 March—Meeting with a representative from Babcock to discuss the Maritime Industrial Strategy.

5 March—Meeting with a representative from the Carlyle Group to discuss the Maritime Industrial Strategy.

6 March—Meeting with Deloitte to discuss the Defence Industry Strategy.

12 March—Meeting with a representative from BAE Systems to discuss the Maritime Industrial Strategy.

12 March—Meeting with a representative from MBDA to discuss the Maritime Industrial Strategy.

12 March—Meeting with a representative from VT Group to discuss the Maritime Industrial Strategy.

19 March—Meeting with a representative from BAE Systems to discuss the Maritime Industrial Strategy.

19 March—Meeting with a representative from the Carlyle Group to discuss the Maritime Industrial Strategy.

26 March—Meeting with a representative from General Dynamics UK to discuss various equipment programmes.

27 March—Meeting of the National Defence Industry Council.

27 March—Meeting with a representative from the MBDA to discuss the Defence Manufacturers Association.

29 March—Introductory meeting with a representative from Nexter with discussions including FRES and munitions.

29 March—Meeting with a representative from Finmeccanica to discuss a variety of equipment issues including helicopters.

Under Secretary of State for Defence

1 March—Meeting with a representative from Marshalls Aerospace to discuss the relocation of the company to Cambridge airport.

6 March—Meeting with a representative from EDS Ltd. to discuss the introduction of a new Veterans card.

Each of the Defence Ministers may also have met with defence manufacturers on other less formal occasions during the period, including whilst visiting company premises or at party political events.

Details of every meeting between officials and representatives from defence manufacturers is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However there will have been numerous regular and ad hoc meetings since 1 December 2006.

Land: Sales

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on land: sales, in what circumstances a land quality assessment is not carried out; and how the value of the land is calculated in those circumstances. [134516]

Derek Twigg: It is normal for the MOD to undertake Land Quality Assessments (LQA) on all sites being considered for disposal.

In line with industry best practice, the MOD LQA process adopts a structured phased approach and is tailored to individual site conditions. It is not necessary to carry out every phase for all sites. For example past use may be such that potential risks identified at a LQA preliminary phase may be sufficiently quantified not to warrant proceeding to the next phase. The value of the land will ultimately be determined by the market.

Mercenaries: Iraq

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the rules of engagement for private military companies operating in Iraq. [133528]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The operation of private security companies in Iraq is regulated by Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) Memorandum Number 17. CPA legislation remains in force as part of the law of Iraq by virtue of Article 130 of the Iraqi Constitution until amended or repealed by the Iraqi Government. Annex A to CPA Memorandum Number 17 sets out binding rules on the use of force, which apply to all private security companies in Iraq. I will arrange for CPA Memorandum Number 17 to be placed in the Library of the House. It is already available on the following website:

http://www.iraqcoalition.org/regulations/index.html #Regulations

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual fuel defect rates of the Nimrod fleet per fifty flying hours were in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [132978]

Mr. Ingram: The average annual fuel system defect ('fuel defect' is defined as any reported fault relating to the aircraft fuel system) rate per 50 flying hours for the Nimrod fleet over the last 10 calendar years for which the information is currently available, is as follows:

	Defects per 50 flying hours
1996	3.93
1997	4.61
1998	4.72
1999	4.64
2000	3.83
2001	3.81
2002	3.83
2003	3.99
2004	4.75
2005	3.80

Rigid Inflatable Boats

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the acquisition costs are for each type of rigid inflatable boat used by the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. [134198]

Mr. Ingram: There are 15 types of in-service Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB). I am withholding the information about acquisition costs as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. Purchase costs do, however, range between approximately £20,000 and £200,000.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to produce a revised edition of the draft guidance on termination of pregnancy in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [134443]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) issued the draft "Guidance on Termination of Pregnancy in Northern Ireland" to interested parties on 9 January. The response date was extended from 16 March to 20 April due to the high level of interest that it generated.

DHSSPS is currently collating the responses in order to produce a summary response document. The final guidelines will not be issued until after the Assembly is restored.

Arson

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of suspected deliberate fire starting were reported in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and how many people were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted of arson and related offences in each year. [133125]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 outlines the total number of incidents recorded and cleared by PSNI. Table 2 gives prosecutions and convictions for the offences of 'arson' and 'arson endangering life'.

The statistics in the table are drawn from two separate sources—PSNI Central Statistics Unit and NIO Statistics and Research Branch. PSNI statistics include incidents which have been recorded but did not result in prosecution or any further recommended action. The statistics drawn from NIO Statistics and Research Branch detail prosecutions and convictions. Comparison is not possible between the two tables.

Table 1

	Number of Offences	
	Recorded	*Cleared*
2002-03	2,598	141
2003-04	2,136	200
2004-05	2,011	177
2005-06	2,333	179
1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007[1]	2,281	153

[1] Data are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Table 2: Prosecutions and convictions for the offences of 'arson' and 'arson endangering life' 2001-05[1,2]

	2001		*2002*		*2003*	
	Prosecuted	*Convicted*	*Prosecuted*	*Convicted*	*Prosecuted*	*Convicted*
Arson	32	24	47	35	43	29
Arson endangering life	13	9	3	3	15	8
Total	45	33	50	38	58	37

	2004		2005	
	Prosecuted	Convicted	Prosecuted	Convicted
Arson	61	39	39	21
Arson endangering life	22	16	13	10
Total	83	55	52	31

[1] Data are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.
[2] Data for 2005 are provisional.
Source:
Statistics and Research Branch

Departments: Land

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what surplus land is owned by Government Departments in Northern Ireland; what the acreage is of that land; and what plans the Government have for this land. [132284]

Mr. Hanson: The following areas of land owned by Government Departments have been identified as surplus.

Area	Acres	Comment
Wilsonis Farm, CAFRE Enniskillen Campus	36	Currently with Land and Property Services (LPS) to identify interest from other Government Departments. If no interest is declared the plan is for this land to be sold.
Thornhill, CAFRE Enniskillen Campus	77	Currently with LPS to identify interest from other Government Departments. If no interest is declared the plan is for this land to be sold.
Tullyhogue Fort site, CAFRE Loughry Campus, Cookstown	44.5	The fort includes a State Care Monument on 3.7 acres which may transfer to DOE Environment and Heritage Service. Cookstown district council has expressed interest in purchasing 4.9 acres. The remaining 35.9 acres will be sold.
Part of lands at Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Belfast	138	If there is no interest from other Government Departments this land will be sold.
Part of lands at Gransha/Stradreagh Hospital, Londonderry	264	If there is no interest from other Government Departments this land will be sold.
Part of lands at Downshire Hospital, Downpatrick	68.7	If there is no interest from other Government Departments this land will be sold.
Bush Road, Antrim	3.8	If there is no interest from other Government Departments this land will be sold.
Part of lands at Whiteabbey Hospital	23.7	If there is no interest from other Government Departments this land will be sold.
Part of lands at Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital, Omagh	103.5	If there is no interest from other Government Departments this land will be sold.
Maze/Long Kesh former prison	360	Proposals are under consideration for mixed use regeneration of regional significance, including multi-sport stadium and international centre for conflict transformation, subject also to decisions on affordability and value for money.
Ebrington Barracks Londonderry	26	Proposed regeneration, led by Ilex Urban Regeneration Company—Masterplan includes residential and retail development.
Magherafelt former security site	7.5	Proposed location of new primary school and education campus.
Corporation Street Belfast	[1]n/k	Potential land swap with Department for Regional Development Roads Service.
Tomb Street Belfast	[1]n/k	Potential land swap with Department for Regional Development Roads Service.
Landscaped area in centre of Tullyhommon, High Street, Pettigo	0.09	Agreed for transfer to Fermanagh district council.
Old Customs House, Tullyhommon	0.03	Agreed for transfer to Fermanagh district council.
Linenhall Street, Ballymoney	0.32	Situation unknown.
Land at Trasna Way, Lurgan	0.44	Contract and deposit £14,500 received
Land to rear of 17A Market Street, Lurgan	n/k	Ongoing negotiations. Sale agreed to P Park.
Slater's Cross, Belleek	n/k	RDO Omagh investigating. Maps requested.
Car park at Cliff Road, Belleek	n/k	Awaiting confirmation from Roads Service re adoption.
Main Street, Belleek	0.16	Agreed for transfer to Fermanagh district council.
Car Park, Main Street, Carrickmore	[2]0.05	Awaiting confirmation from Roads Service re adoption.
	[2]0.01	—

Area	Acres	Comment
Car Park, Cornmill, Coalisland	n/k	Awaiting confirmation from Roads Service re adoption.
Roadway and Car Park, Stewartstown	1.24	Awaiting confirmation from Roads Service re adoption.
Footpath at Main Street, Clogher	0.006	Awaiting confirmation from Roads Service re adoption.
Walls site, Castlederg	n/k	Awaiting maps.
Former Railway Track, Coalisland	[4]4.25	Awaiting clarification on maps.
	[5]2.53	—
Main Street, Castlederg	n/k	Awaiting maps.
Site 3 at 65 Union Place, Dungannon	0.008	Sale currently being negotiated by Land and Property Services.
Site 5 at 61 Union Place, Dungannon	0.009	—
Site 8 at 34 Union Place, Dungannon	0.117	—
Sites 9 and 10 Union Place, Dungannon	0.076	—
Rear of 27-29 Irish Street, Dungannon	0.006	Sale currently being negotiated by Land and Property Services.

[1] Lands comprised in Folio No. AN 46573.
[2] Registered.
[3] Unregistered.
[4] Site A.
[5] Site B.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134061]

Mr. Hain: This information is not recorded and therefore it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The NIO policy is to use paper for photocopying, printing and for publications that is derived from at least 70 per cent. post consumer waste. Currently we purchase office paper that is derived from 100 per cent. post consumer waste.

Derelict Land

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what disused public land is available in Northern Ireland; what plans are in place for each such site; and if he will make a statement. [132034]

Mr. Hanson: The following plots of disused public land and the plans in place for each have been identified by Northern Ireland Departments:

	Plans in place
Part of former Dunmurry Golf Course at Upper Dunmurry Lane/Creighton Road, Belfast	Planned use is for social housing subject to successful planning appeal
Land between Blacks Road and Colin Valley Golf Course, Belfast	Current proposal is for development as public open space with children's play areas
Part of lands at Downshire Hospital	May be required for new Downe Hospital
Lands at Drumcoo, Enniskillen	May be required for new hospital in South West
Part of lands at Mid Ulster Hospital, Magherafelt	May be required for hospital use
Part of lands at Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast	May be required for hospital use
Land at Fairhill Street, Ballycastle	Likely to be disposed of as surplus land in accordance with Land and Property Services guidance
Site of store, Curragh Road, Coleraine	Likely to be disposed of as surplus land in accordance with Land and Property Services guidance
Land adjacent to river bank of Lower Bann River near Kilrea	Likely to be disposed of as surplus land in accordance with Land and Property Services guidance
Land on bank of Faughan River at Drumahoe	Likely to be disposed of as surplus land in accordance with Land and Property Services guidance
Land at Quoile pondage, Downpatrick	Very restricted use due to environmental protection designations. Its future may be determined by DOENI Environment and Heritage Service
Killyleagh Former HS (South Eastern Education and Library Board)	Future development of Killyleagh OEC
Killowen PS/Laurelhill HS, Lisburn (South Eastern Education and Library Board)	Potential reuse of campus for new education provision
Downshire PS, Main Street, Dundrum (South Eastern Education and Library Board)	Held for new build Infant/Diagnostic Unit for Knockevin Special School
Former Ballymena Boys' and Girls' High School, Demesne Avenue, Ballymena (North Eastern Education and Library Board)	Planned location for re-organised Special School Provision in Ballymena involving the amalgamation of Beechgrove, Dunfane and Loughan Schools
969 acres owned by the Department for Social Development at 380 locations	158 acres for transfer to housing associations for social housing

	Plans in place
	292 acres for sale for private housing
	519 acres to be retained for future development

Drumaghlis School: Crossgar School

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions have taken place between the South Eastern Education and Library Board and the boards of governors of Drumaghlis Primary School and Crossgar Primary School on the implementation programme for the amalgamation of both primary schools from 1 September 2007; and if he will make a statement. [134410]

Maria Eagle: The South Eastern Education and Library Board has undertaken a full consultation with the boards of governors of Drumaghlis Primary School and Crossgar Primary School about the proposed amalgamation prior to the publication of the development proposal. The development proposal is currently being considered by the Department of Education.

Pending a decision on the development proposal an interim board of governors for the proposed new amalgamated school, representative of both the existing schools, has been established to progress the effective implementation of the amalgamation and to prepare a Scheme of Management for the new school. A senior officer from the South Eastern Education and Library Board has been appointed as an independent chairman to the interim board of governors to facilitate this work.

Faith Schools

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many private *(a)* Anglican, *(b)* Catholic, *(c)* Evangelical and *(d)* Jewish faith schools there are in Northern Ireland. [135019]

Maria Eagle: There are currently 10 private evangelical schools in Northern Ireland. There are no Catholic, Church of England or Jewish private schools.

General Practitioners

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department allocated to Western Urgent Care for out-of-hours service provision in each of the last five years. [135249]

Paul Goggins: Following the introduction of the new GMS contract, responsibility for the commissioning of out-of-hours services was transferred to WHSSB on 1 January 2005. Since that date the WHSSB has allocated the following levels of funding to Western Urgent Care:

Period covered	Amount (£ million)
1 January 2005 to 31 March 2005	1.3
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	5.3
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	5.3

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures his Department has in place to ensure that the proposed five per cent. reduction in the Western Urgent Care budget for the financial year 2007-08 will not reduce the level of patient care provided to patients living in the Derry, Strabane and Limavady areas. [135250]

Paul Goggins: There has been no reduction in the actual budget for the provision of out-of-hours (OOH) care, either for Western Urgent Care specifically, or in Northern Ireland as a whole, nor is such a reduction planned. When the Health and Social Services Boards took over responsibility for the delivery of OOHs from GPs in 2005 following the introduction of the new contract for GPs, the Department agreed to provide bridging finance for a period of three years to assist the boards with the start-up costs of the new service. It was agreed with the Health and Social Services Boards at the time that this bridging finance would decrease in the third year (2007-08) and cease from 1 April 2008. The budget for the service is otherwise unaffected.

Health Professions: Training

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which specialities used the online NHS eportfolio for Medical Training Application Service shortlisting in Northern Ireland. [133695]

Paul Goggins: No specialities used the online NHS eportfolio for MTAS shortlisting.

Irish Language: Pupils

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in what proportion of schools in Northern Ireland pupils are taught Irish as a second language. [135020]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is not available for primary schools. The following information relates to examination entries in Irish for the 2005-06 academic year in English-medium schools.

Of the 229 English-medium post primary schools:

79 (34 per cent.) post primary schools had entries in GCSE Irish;

49 (21 per cent.) post primary schools had entries in A-level Irish.

Notes:

1. Irish-medium primary and post primary schools have been excluded from this analysis.

2. In the 2005-06 academic year, two post primary schools had pupils being taught in Irish-medium units. It is not possible to exclude these pupils from the analysis.

3. The GCSE and A-level examination data have been taken from the University of Bath dataset.

4. The number of post primary schools is taken from the annual school census.

Junior Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days on average junior doctors were available to provide a service to patients in the Northern Ireland hospital where they work during *(a)* March 2006 and *(b)* March 2007. [134979]

Paul Goggins: This information is not held centrally and could be provided by the Health and Social Care Trusts only at a disproportionate cost.

Local Government: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are employed in local government in Northern Ireland. [135045]

David Cairns: The number of people employed in the 26 district councils in Northern Ireland, as at 1 January 2006, totalled 10,912. This figure has been provided from records held by the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland.

Locums

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was of locum cover in Northern Ireland for junior doctors during (*a*) March 2006 and (*b*) March 2007. [133702]

Paul Goggins: The cost for locum cover in Northern Ireland for junior doctors during March 2006 was £782,605. A final figure for March 2007 is not yet available but the cost to date is £867,297.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost has been of providing locum cover for junior doctors in Northern Ireland attending activities relating to Modernising Medical Careers. [134962]

Paul Goggins: There is no additional cost for providing locum cover for junior doctors attending Modernising Medical Careers activities as cover is provided by other junior doctors in the rota.

Primary Education

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what meetings have taken place between the education boards and primary school teachers on the implementation programme for the revised primary school curriculum for primary 1 and primary 5 classes; [134408]

(2) what training programmes have taken place with teachers in each of the education and library boards on the implementation of the revised primary school curriculum for (*a*) primary 1 and (*b*) primary 5 classes. [134409]

Maria Eagle: The education and library boards, as part of the strategic planning by the education partners within the partnership management board (PMB), have provided three days' training for all Year 1 and Year 5 teachers during 2006-07, with follow-up training planned for the next academic year. Year 1 teachers have also been invited to attend local group meetings relating to Foundation Stage, and Year 5 teachers will receive training during the summer term relating to specific aspects of assessment.

The boards have also been engaging directly with primary principals, as school leaders. Every primary principal has had the opportunity to discuss the implementation of the revised curriculum at a series of face to face meetings, in addition to senior management conferences which began in 2005-06. PMB has also established a principals' forum as a further means of engaging directly with schools and every school has a dedicated link officer from the boards.

Recycling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his policy is on encouraging recycling across Northern Ireland. [135022]

David Cairns: "Towards Resource Management", the waste strategy for Northern Ireland, sets challenging targets for the recycling and recovery of all wastes. I am committed to the development of viable end markets for recycled materials and to supporting the work of WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) and other initiatives that will engage the business sector and encourage recycling. Sustainable procurement and purchasing policies across central Government will help to stabilise these markets. My Department will also be consulting on providing powers for district councils to introduce incentive schemes to reduce and recycle household waste.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Government are taking to tackle the number of young drivers killed and injured on Northern Ireland's roads. [134407]

David Cairns: The Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy 2002-12 reinforces Government's commitment to road safety and includes a range of measures aimed at young drivers.

The Department of the Environment is currently researching the training, testing and licensing of new and young drivers and the future direction for Northern Ireland's "L" and "R" driver schemes. Any proposed changes will be the subject of consultation.

DOE actively promotes Road Traffic Studies and GCSE Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies in post-primary schools, providing support, training and materials to schools. The Police Service of Northern Ireland has developed an NVQ, "Preparation for Driving", which will be made available by September 2007. These courses focus on the attitudes of young adults, many of whom will soon become drivers. The PSNI ran 19 "Roadsafe Roadshows" during the current school year, attended by almost 11,000 young people, depicting how a night out could end in tragedy. DOE also offers, through schools, a driver training scheme to 17 and 18-year-olds with valid provisional licences.

DOE has a portfolio of hard-hitting road safety campaigns targeting the main causes of road deaths and serious injuries. These particularly focus on the 17-24 age group as it is most at risk and most likely to be responsible for serious road collisions.

The PSNI has introduced a Driver Improvement Scheme to improve driving standards and attitudes for first time careless driving offenders as an alternative to prosecution.

Over the past year the PSNI has worked with young motorists through its involvement with a local "cruising club". Approximately 1,000 young people attended a recent event in Ballymena.

The PSNI mounts intelligence-led road safety operations, particularly in relation to young drivers, throughout the year. In 2006, 3,723 fixed penalty notices for speeding were issued to 17 to 24-year-olds.

Special Educational Needs

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much each education and library board spent on defending *(a)* special education needs tribunal cases and *(b)* special educational needs judicial review cases in each of the last five years. [124544]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible for the education and library boards (ELBs) to provide the exact costs of defending special educational needs tribunal and judicial review cases in each of the last five years as they do not hold records of the exact amount of time spent by board officers in preparing for and, if necessary, attending tribunals and judicial reviews.

I am advised by the chief executives of the education and library boards that, for both tribunals and judicial reviews, an average cost of £5,000 per case in respect of cases which are eventually heard and £1,000 for all other cases is appropriate.

Special educational needs tribunal

£

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
BELB	40,000	20,000	15,000	15,000	5,000
NEELB	18,000	57,000	52,000	29,000	29,000
SEELB	6,000	7,000	25,000	25,000	15,000
SELB	24,000	16,000	8,000	7,000	3,000
WELB	6,000	26,000	9,000	8,000	11,000

Judicial reviews

£

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
BELB	0	5,000	5,000	20,000	15,000
NEELB	10,000	0	10,000	5,000	0
SEELB	0	10,000	45,000	40,000	25,000
SELB	0	0	5,000	10,000	0
WELB	0	0	0	5,000	0

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Africa: Exports

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what support the Government provided to British firms seeking to establish export agreements with African countries in the latest period for which figures are available. [134315]

Mr. McCartney: UK Trade and Investment is the Government organisation that supports UK companies trading internationally. During the past 12 to 18 months it has assisted over 4,600 British companies working in Africa through its range of services. Services offered include helping British companies develop their export strategy, providing support and advice on market entry, advice on local customs, assistance in finding a local partner and understanding ways of doing business. Our ambassadors/high commissioners and senior government officials have helped British companies in their efforts to secure contracts in Africa by extensive lobbying with Ministers and officials. They are also in constant discussions with Ministers and senior officials to promote British expertise and knowledge.

Working with its stakeholders UKTI has arranged 65 inward missions and 62 outward missions to African countries in recent years including South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya.

UK exports to Africa in 2006 amounted to £6,194,177 up 7.2 per cent. on the 2005 figure of £5,777,083.

British Sky Broadcasting: ITV

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to make his decision on whether BSkyB's acquisition of a 17.9 per cent. stake in ITV should be referred to the Competition Commission. [135302]

Mr. McCartney: A decision on whether to refer this transaction to the Competition Commission will be made as soon as possible and before the statutory deadline which is 26 May.

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received from officials at BSkyB on its stake in ITV; and if he will publish those representations. [135303]

Mr. McCartney: BSkyB has made substantive representations on its shareholding in ITV to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and to Ofcom in the context of the respective investigations these bodies have carried out into that matter. The reports submitted by the OFT and Ofcom to the Secretary of State on Friday 27 April contain summaries of the representations they received, including those received from BSkyB. Section 107(3)(b) and 107(3)(a) of the Enterprise Act 2002 require the Secretary of State to publish the reports submitted by the OFT and Ofcom. Section 107(9)(a) of the Enterprise Act 2002 requires that these reports shall be published no later than the publication of the Secretary of State's decision on whether to make a reference to the Competition Commission. In accordance with section 118 of the Enterprise Act 2002, suitable excisions will be made to the reports of the OFT and Ofcom prior to their publication. The excisions will be primarily in respect of the consideration specified in section 244(3)(a) of the Enterprise Act 2002 which concerns the exclusion of commercial information whose disclosure might significantly harm the legitimate business interests of the undertaking to which it relates.

Business: Suffolk

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many firms ceased trading in *(a)* Bury St Edmunds constituency and *(b)* the Suffolk county council area in each year since 1997. [134688]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business closures although only 42 per cent of UK businesses were registered for VAT at the start of 2005. DTI data on the number of VAT de-registrations in *(a)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency and *(b)* Suffolk county council area from 1997 to 2005 are shown in the following table. Data for de-registrations in 2006 will be available in autumn 2007. For comparison, the number of new VAT registrations and the start of year stock of VAT registered businesses are also shown.

VAT de-registrations, registrations and stock

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Bury St. Edmunds constituency	de-registrations	230	205	240	250	245	230	275	260	265	—
	registrations	295	270	270	325	260	325	320	345	320	—
	stock	3,185	3,250	3,320	3,345	3,420	3,440	3,535	3,580	3,665	3,720
Suffolk county council	de-registrations	1,605	1,620	1,625	1,675	1,730	1,785	1,835	1,775	1,695	—
	registrations	2,035	1,890	1,855	2,060	1,885	2,100	2,160	2,085	1,915	—
	stock	20,835	21,265	21,535	21,765	22,145	22,300	22,610	22,935	23,240	23,460

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2005, Small Business Service, available at http://www.dtistats.net/smes/vat/index.htm

In both Bury St. Edmunds constituency and Suffolk county council area the stock of VAT registered businesses has increased each year since 1997, as registrations have exceeded de-registrations throughout this period.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register will not necessarily have closed. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million businesses were registered for VAT at the start of 2005.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many small businesses that began trading since 1997 have subsequently ceased trading in *(a)* Bury St Edmunds constituency, *(b)* Suffolk, *(c)* the east of England and *(d)* England. [134689]

Margaret Hodge: While value added tax (VAT) registrations and de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business starts and closures only 42 per cent of UK businesses were registered for VAT at the start of 2005. Latest VAT data on the total number of registrations since 1997 and the number of these registrations that subsequently de-registered, covering up to 2005, are shown in the following table for *(a)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency, *(b)* Suffolk County, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England. Data for 2006 will be available in winter 2008-09.

VAT registrations and subsequent de-registrations, 1997 to 2005[1]

Number

Bury St. Edmunds constituency	New registrations 1997 to 2005	2,740
	Number de-registering by end of 2005	855
	Percentage still registered, end of 2005	69
Suffolk county	New registrations 1997 to 2005	17,980
	Number de-registering by end of 2005	6,125
	Percentage still registered, end of 2005	66
East of England Government Office Region	New registrations 1997 to 2005	159,155
	Number de-registering by end of 2005	56,815
	Percentage still registered, end of 2005	64
England	New registrations 1997 to 2005	1,423,420
	Number de-registering by end of 2005	537,625
	Percentage still registered, end of 2005	62

[1] VAT registration and de-registration data are not available by size of business. However, 98 per cent. of the total stock of VAT registered businesses are small (0-49 employees).
Sources:
Office for National Statistics, UK Business: Activity, Size and Location -2006, available from http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=933
New analysis of VAT survival rates data 1994-2004, Small Business Service, available at http://www.dtistats.net/smes/; SBS analysis of ONS Inter Departmental Business Register data.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register may not have closed. Only 1.8 million out of the 4.3 million businesses in the UK were registered for VAT at the start of 2005.

China: Wood

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has made to the Government of China on ensuring the sustainability of timber imported to China from *(a)* South East Asia and *(b)* Africa; and if he will make a statement. [134597]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

DFID is working on the issue of sustainable timber imports to China from South East Asia and from Africa through a number of channels.

Policy analysis is funded through support to a programme, "China and the Asia-Pacific: forest markets for sustainable livelihoods and forests" managed by the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Forest Trends. Forest Trends, and the data it produces on Chinese timber production and on the timber imports and exports, is well respected by the Chinese Government. They are about to expand this work to cover a selected number of African countries.

DFID contributes to an ongoing project jointly run by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the Canadian International Institute of Sustainable Development, whose aim is to integrate sustainable development concerns into Chinese trade/economic policies in three commodities, of which one is the international timber trade.

Finally, forestry is a priority issue within the UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue, a formal mechanism for ministerial dialogue and projects on key sustainable development issues. DFID is a member of the newly-established UK-China Forestry Working Group, and is lead and co-funder of a project managed by Chatham House to hold a series of participatory stakeholder meetings on international forestry, bringing together Chinese Government, industry representatives and non-governmental organisations.

Corporate Social Responsibility Academy

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) pursuant to the answer of 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 767-68W, on the Corporate Social Responsibility Academy, what the funding provided to the academy in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07 was spent on, broken down by main budget heading; [135055]

(2) how much government funding was given to the Academy Programme partners as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility Academy in each year since it began. [135058]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 30 April 2007]*: The budget for the academy over its two years was allocated as follows:

CSR Academy budget

	Year 1	£ Year 2
Programme partners	150,000	127,000
Project management	87,200	91,000
Website/ communications	41,400	41,000
Miscellaneous expenses	12,200	20,000
Total	290,800	279,000

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when his Department decided to transfer the running of the Corporate Social Responsibility Academy to Business in the Community. [135059]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 30 April 2007]*: The Department was in discussion with Business in the Community about the future of the academy from June 2006 and the agreement to the transfer was concluded in January 2007.

Farmers: Bankruptcy

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of farmers who became bankrupt in England in each of the last five years. [135241]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The closest available estimate for bankruptcies among farmers is the number of bankruptcy orders made under the category "agriculture" according to the Insolvency Trade Classification. Also provided for further information is the number of company liquidations in the agricultural sector. The following table provides the England and Wales figures in 2001-05, figures for 2006 are not available by industry sector:

Bankruptcies and company liquidations in England and Wales for agriculture, 2001-05

	Bankruptcy orders	Company liquidations
2001	183	90
2002	132	76
2003	151	52
2004	204	35
2005	195	35

Financial Services: Marketing

Frank Cook: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many organisations marketing individual voluntary arrangements were successfully prosecuted for using advertising that was in breach of the Control of Misleading Advertisements Regulations 1988 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [134173]

Mr. McCartney: Any enforcement action regarding advertising of IVAs would be from OFT or ASA. Information regarding prosecutions and breaches of the CMARs can be found on the Consumer Regulations website, provided by the Office of Fair Trading, at www.crw.gov.uk. This records six cases since 2003 involving breaches of the CMARs, all of which were dealt with through undertakings by the companies and relevant individuals rather than by prosecutions.

OM Energy

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when his Department expects to cease providing support to OM Energy Ltd. [134230]

Mr. McCartney: The key objective of UK Trade and Investment's Global Entrepreneur Programme is to create self sustaining, high growth UK technology businesses by attracting both worldwide intellectual property and entrepreneurial talent here. The latest phase of the OM Energy project will include the recruitment of a highly experienced global management team to take forward the next stage of the company's strategy. This will limit the need for significant ongoing support from the Global Entrepreneur Programme.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children's Centres: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children's centres he expects there to be in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex by 2010. [130935]

Beverley Hughes: There will be seven Sure Start Children's Centres in Eastbourne and 28 Sure Start Children's Centres in East Sussex by 2008. Local authorities will be planning the number of children's centres up to 2010 once they receive their allocations and targets later this year. There are currently two Sure Start Children's Centres in Eastbourne and 10 Sure Start Children's Centres in East Sussex.

Education: Newspaper Press

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many supplements in newspapers were funded by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in the last 12 months; and how much was spent in each case. [132235]

Jim Knight: The number of supplements in newspapers funded by the Department and the QCA in the last 12 months is as follows:

(a) The Department for Education and Skills

Date	*Newspaper*	*Subject*	*Cost (£)*
6 March 2007	Guardian supplement	14-19 Reforms	42,000
30 March[1]	TES supplement	14-19	51,406
October 2006	Guardian supplement x2 Society/Education	Every Child Matters	120,000
15 June 2006	Evening Standard—London Schools Supplement	London Challenge	60,000

[1] Joint with the QCA

(b) the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Date	*Newspaper*	*Subject*	*Cost (£)*
8 February 2007	SecEd supplement	Preparing for the future—secondary curriculum review explained	22,120.55
1 February	SecEd supplement	Preparing for the future—14-19 reforms explained	20,000
3 April 2007	Guardian Education supplement	Freedom to learn	66,975

Education: Standards

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1542W on education: standards, how many maintained mainstream schools there were where *(a)* more than 20 per cent., *(b)* more than one third and *(c)* more than 40 per cent. of 14-year old pupils attained a lower or the same level in Key Stage 3 (i) tests and (ii) teacher assessments in 2006 than they had attained at Key Stage 2. [132128]

Jim Knight: The information requested is summarised in the following table.

Number of schools

National Curriculum test	*More than 20 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2*	*More than 33 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2*	*More than 40 per cent. of pupils at the same or lower level in KS3 compared to KS2*
English	729	145	49
Maths	48	0	0
Science	1,849	788	385

The DFES and NAA are currently validating teacher assessment data submitted by schools for KS3 in 2006. As a result of this ongoing work, teacher assessment data for 2006 have not yet been published.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1541W, on education: standards, how many and what proportion of pupils who attained level five or below in the key stage three *(a)* teacher assessments and *(b)* tests in (i) English, (ii) mathematics and (iii) science had attained level five or above at key stage two in each of the last five years. [132129]

Jim Knight: The information requested is summarised in the following table.

Number of pupils at Level 5 or below at KS3 who attained Level 5 or above at KS2[1,2]

	English				Maths				Science			
	National Curriculum test		Teacher assessment		National Curriculum test		Teacher assessment		National Curriculum test		Teacher assessment	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2006	27,700	7.2	[3]	—	2,500	1.0	—	—	45,300	13.3	—	—
2005	31,000	8.5	24,900	6.8	3,400	1.3	6,400	2.3	52,100	14.5	40,000	11.3
2004	32,300	8.8	25,000	6.8	3,100	1.2	6,700	2.4	49,900	13.6	35,200	10.2
2003	30,600	8.8	23,400	6.1	3,500	1.3	6,700	2.2	38,300	11.8	34,600	9.6
2002	22,400	6.1	18,500	5.0	4,600	1.6	6,900	2.2	35,100	9.7	25,800	7.2

[1] 'Level 5 or below' is defined according to National Curriculum test/teacher assessment level. The levels are B (working below the level of the test), N (not awarded a test level) and 2-8 for National Curriculum tests, and W (working towards Level 1) and 1-8 for teacher assessments. Pupils absent or unable to access the tests at either KS2 or KS3 are not included.
[2] Percentages are expressed as a proportion of all pupils at Level 5 or below at KS3.
[3] The DFES and NAA are currently validating teacher assessment data submitted by schools for KS3 in 2006. As a result of this ongoing work, teacher assessment data for 2006 have not yet been published.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1541W, on education: standards, how many and what proportion of pupils who attained level four or below in the key stage three *(a)* teacher assessments and *(b)* tests in (i) English, (ii) mathematics and (iii) science had attained level five or above at key stage two in each of the last five years. [132130]

Jim Knight: The information requested is summarised in the following table.

Number of pupils at Level 4 or below at KS3 who attained Level 5 or above at KS2[1,2]

	English				Maths				Science			
	National Curriculum test		Teacher assessment		National Curriculum test		Teacher assessment		National Curriculum test		Teacher assessment	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2006	810	0.5	[3]	—	280	0.2	—	—	4,400	2.9	—	—
2005	880	0.7	1,600	1.1	440	0.3	590	0.5	5,500	3.4	4,300	2.8
2004	1,300	0.9	1,700	1.0	400	0.3	640	0.5	7,800	4.4	4,300	2.8
2003	1,300	0.9	1,600	0.9	420	0.3	590	0.4	5,400	3.7	4,100	2.5
2002	1,400	0.9	1,400	0.8	560	0.3	600	0.4	3,900	2.4	3,000	1.8

[1] 'Level 4 or below' is defined according to National Curriculum test/teacher assessment level. The levels are B (working below the level of the test), N (not awarded a test level) and 2-8 for National Curriculum tests, and W (working towards Level 1) and 1-8 for teacher assessments. Pupils absent or unable to access the tests at either KS2 or KS3 are not included.
[2] Percentages are expressed as a proportion of all pupils at Level 4 or below at KS3.
[3] The DFES and NAA are currently validating teacher assessment data submitted by schools for KS3 in 2006. As a result of this ongoing work, teacher assessment data for 2006 have not yet been published.

Free School Meals

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were known to be eligible for free school meals but were not in receipt of free school meals over the last 10 years. [131798]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 17 April 2007]:* Information on pupils eligible for free school meals is collected at pupil level via the school census. Pupils should only be recorded as eligible if a claim for free school meals has been made for them or on their behalf by parents and their eligibility has been confirmed by the relevant authority or by provision of necessary documents to the school or local authority.

It is not known how many pupils could be eligible but are not submitting a claim.

The following table shows the number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals; and the number of pupils who took a free school meal on the day of the census.

Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools[1]: school meal arrangements—as at January 2006, England

	Maintained nursery and primary schools	Maintained secondary schools
Number on roll[2]	4,187,630	3,309,720
Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	670,340	448,680
Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	16.0	13.6
Number of pupils who took a free school meal on the day of the Census	556,180	328,750
Percentage of pupils who took a free school meal on the day of the Census	13.3	9.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual main registration. Includes boarding pupils.
Note:
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Further Education: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students who took A2-level exams in the London borough of Havering went on to further education in each year since 1997. [134622]

Jim Knight: The figures in this answer are for all 16 and 17-year-olds, there is no information solely on those that have completed A2-level exams and local participation estimates are not available for 18-year-olds.

The table gives the number and percentage of 16 and 17-year-olds in the London borough of Havering participating in full-time education at a sixth form college, further education college or school. The latest year for which data are available is end 2004.

Participation in education and training of 16 and 17-year-olds in the London borough of Havering by type of institution 1997 to 2004

	End							
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Age 16								
Number								
Maintained schools	500	500	500	500	600	600	600	600
Independent schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sixth form college	900	800	800	800	800	800	800	900
Other FE	800	700	600	700	700	700	700	900
Total	2,100	2,000	2,000	1,900	2,100	2,100	2,200	2,400
Percentage								
Maintained schools	17	17	19	18	19	20	22	21
Independent schools	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sixth form college	30	30	30	27	28	30	29	29
Other FE	27	25	24	25	24	24	25	28
Total	74	71	73	70	71	73	78	78
Age 17								
Number								
Maintained schools	500	400	400	500	400	500	500	500
Independent schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sixth form college	600	600	700	600	500	600	600	600
Other FE	600	500	500	500	500	600	600	600
Total	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,800
Percentage								
Maintained schools	15	16	15	17	15	16	17	19
Independent schools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sixth form college	19	23	24	23	19	21	22	22
Other FE	20	19	20	20	19	19	20	21
Total	55	58	59	60	53	57	58	61
Age 16 and 17								
Number								
Maintained schools	900	900	900	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,200
Independent schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sixth form college	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,300	1,500	1,400	1,500
Other FE	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,400
Total	3,700	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,700	3,800	4,200
Percentage								
Maintained schools	16	16	17	18	17	18	20	20
Independent schools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sixth form college	25	26	27	25	24	26	26	25
Other FE	23	22	22	22	22	21	22	24
Total	64	65	66	65	63	65	68	70

Source:
DfES SFR 13/2006

Higher Education: Health and Safety Inspections

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the frequency of health and safety inspections in higher education. [116641]

Bill Rammell: No such assessment has been made. It is the duty of governing bodies of higher education institutions, as employers, to ensure that their organisations comply with all legislation including the Health and Safety at Work Act 1976 and subsequent regulations. Inspection and enforcement is a matter for the Health and Safety Executive and local authorities and will depend on the nature of activities carried out in individual higher education institutions.

National Identity Register

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what personal data held by his Department will be entered on to the National Identity Register; and if he will make a statement. [107791]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that the Minister for Children and Families, my right hon. Friend the Member for Stretford and Urmston (Beverley Hughes) gave him on 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 426W.

Information that may be entered in the National Identity Register is specified at section 3 and schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Act. Information will be entered on the basis of fresh applications for registration when individuals apply for identity cards. There will be no

bulk transfer of data to populate the Register. The Department has yet to identify any datasets it holds that might be used for verifying information to be recorded about individuals in the National Identity Register.

Outdoor Education: Biology

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average amount of time spent by A-level biology students out of the classroom was in each of the last five years; what the nature of students' activities out of the classroom was; and what assessment he has made of the impact of such activities on students' learning and understanding. [132988]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect information about the amount of time spent by A-level biology students out of the classroom or the nature of students' activities out of the classroom. In 2004, the Department co-sponsored a review carried out by the National Foundation for Educational Research, 'A Review of Research on Outdoor Learning'. The review covered research on outdoor learning published from 1993 to 2003. The report states that

"Substantial evidence exists to indicate that fieldwork, properly conceived, adequately planned, well taught and effectively followed up, offers learners opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills in ways that add value to their everyday experiences in the classroom."

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were excluded from school on the grounds of health and safety in each of the last five years. [131191]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally. Pupils may only be excluded from school for disciplinary reasons; they cannot be formally excluded for reasons of health and safety.

Pupils: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils attained a lower or the same level at key stage 3 *(a)* tests and *(b)* teacher assessments than what they attained at key stage 2 in each year since 1997. [132231]

Jim Knight: The information requested is summarised in the following table.

Number of pupils at same level or lower at KS3 as at KS2[1]

	English		*Maths*		*Science*	
	National Curriculum test	*Teacher assessment*	*National Curriculum test*	*Teacher assessment*	*National Curriculum test*	*Teacher assessment*
2006	84,100	[2] —	36,100	—	145,400	
2005	80,300	92,700	56,200	61,400	165,000	136,900
2004	97,400	97,700	57,800	64,900	181,600	134,200
2003	100,900	100,900	65,000	71,900	153,300	136,500
2002	94,600	92,100	75,900	71,900	133,300	124,500

[1] 'Same level or lower' is defined according to National Curriculum test/teacher assessment level and point score. The levels are B (working below the level of the test), N (not awarded a test level) and 2-8 for National Curriculum tests, and W (working towards Level 1) and 1-8 for teacher assessments. Pupils absent or unable to access the tests at either KS2 or KS3 are not included.
[2] The DFES and NAA are currently validating teacher assessment data submitted by schools for KS3 in 2006. As a result of this ongoing work, teacher assessment data for 2006 have not yet been published.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the per pupil cost of a young person *(a)* studying a new vocational diploma and *(b)* remaining in school to study GCSEs and A-levels. [131591]

Jim Knight: We are currently reviewing funding arrangements from 2008-09 for schools and post-16 providers including school sixth forms. Our proposals are contained in two funding consultation documents: the 'School, Early years and 14-16 funding consultation' which deals with funding up to the age of 16, and 'Delivering World Class Skills in a Demand Led System' which covers all post-16 learning funded through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The post-16 consultation ended at the end of March and the pre-16 consultation closes at the end of May.

Under the funding methodology proposed for sixth forms, which would also apply to provision delivered in colleges, the estimated per pupil cost of a young person studying a typical programme of five GCSEs or three A levels is £4,000.

Work is under way to develop comparable per pupil cost figures for diplomas but is not yet finalised. This will need to take account of the diploma specifications for the first five diploma lines which should be available this September.

The Department has carried out modelling work based on five local authorities to illustrate what additional per pupil funding schools might need for Diplomas at Key Stage 4. Based on that work the Average Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) for a pupil taking up a diploma would be 1.3 times the AWPU of a child not taking up diploma provision.

School: Sports

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the number of schools in England which provide *(a)* less than two hours of sport per week, *(b)* two to four hours of sport per week and *(c)* four hours or more of sport per week; [133427]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average number of hours of sport played in each school in England per week. [133428]

Jim Knight: Data are not collected centrally in the format requested. The 2005/06 School Sport Survey found that overall, 80 per cent. of pupils in schools within a school sport partnership took part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport in a typical week—exceeding the 2006 PSA target of 75 per cent.

In the longer term, the ambition is that by 2010, all young people will be offered at least four hours of sport every week. This will comprise of at least two hours of PE and sport during the school day and at least an additional 2-3 hours of sport beyond the school day (delivered by a range of school, community and club providers).

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools were oversubscribed in the last year for which figures are available. [126014]

Jim Knight: We do not collate this information centrally, but individual local authorities should be able to supply it.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many incidents of violence towards *(a)* staff and *(b)* pupils were reported in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in each year since 1997. [126526]

Jim Knight: The number of incidents of violence towards staff and pupils in schools is not collected centrally.

From the academic year 2003/04, information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. These reasons include 'physical assault against a pupil' and 'physical assault against an adult'.

The tables provide a breakdown of the number of pupils who have been excluded for a fixed period or permanently from maintained primary and secondary schools for physical assault against a pupil or an adult.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of fixed period exclusions for physical assault against a pupil or an adult 2003/04 and 2004/05—England

	Maintained primary				*Maintained secondary*			
	Physical assault against a pupil		*Physical assault against an adult*		*Physical assault against a pupil*		*Physical assault against an adult*	
	Number	*Percentage[2]*	*Number*	*Percentage[2]*	*Number*	*Percentage[2]*	*Number*	*Percentage[2]*
2003/04	10,890	26.4	5,190	12.6	55,440	19.2	8,110	2.8
2004/05	11,950	27.3	5,960	13.6	65,790	20.0	9,490	2.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Number of fixed period exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of fixed period exclusions.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of permanent exclusions for physical assault against a pupil or an adult[2]—2003/04 and 2004/05—England

	Maintained primary				*Maintained secondary*			
	Physical assault against a pupil		*Physical assault against an adult*		*Physical assault against a pupil*		*Physical assault against an adult*	
	Number	*Percentage[3]*	*Number*	*Percentage[3]*	*Number*	*Percentage[3]*	*Number*	*Percentage[3]*
2003/04	290	22.7	290	22.9	1,380	16.6	820	9.9
2004/05	250	22.6	290	26.3	1,500	18.6	900	11.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The distribution of exclusions by reason has been derived from the Termly Exclusions Survey data and applied to the number of permanent exclusions as confirmed by local authorities as part of the School Census checking exercise.
[3] Number of permanent exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of permanent exclusions.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census and Termly Exclusions Survey

Schools: VAT

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to extend the removal of VAT constraints from academies to all facilities funded through the Building Schools for the Future programme. [131371]

Jim Knight: In the past, new academy buildings have been zero rated due to academies' status as charities. However, this zero rating placed restrictions on the "business use" of the buildings i.e. the community use of the buildings for which a charge is made. The Chancellor's budget announcement statement concerning the removal of VAT constraints for current academies and those planned for the future enables the scope of these buildings' use to be extended and future buildings can now be designed with community use in mind.

These changes will further strengthen the effectiveness and value for money of the academies programme as it continues to move forward.

The Department will continue an open dialogue with colleagues at HM Treasury about VAT policy and other matters. However, we must be mindful that European Union VAT agreements, signed by successive

Governments, mean that while the UK can retain existing zero rates, such as that for charitable buildings, it cannot extend these or introduce any new VAT reliefs.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to pilot the new National Curriculum programmes of study being proposed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority secondary curriculum review. [122036]

Jim Knight: There are no plans to pilot the programmes of study being proposed by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority secondary curriculum review. There will be a phased roll out beginning with all Year 7 pupils in September 2008.

The programmes of study have been developed in consultation with teachers, academics, subject specialists and a wide range of curriculum experts. They take into account best practice developed in schools and current research on the principles of effective teaching. They will be further informed by the results of the national consultation.

The impact of the programmes of study will be monitored by Ofsted as part of its regular school inspections, and by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority as part of its ongoing curriculum monitoring activity.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1025W, on secondary education: curriculum, on what occasions the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority met *(a)* teachers and head teachers, *(b)* officers from local authorities and *(c)* parents, governors and pupils in developing the new secondary curriculum. [124853]

Jim Knight: In developing the revised secondary curriculum, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) held 13 conferences and subject seminars for teachers, head teachers and officers from local authorities. QCA has an ongoing programme of events to engage with parents, governors and pupils on a range of issues, including the secondary curriculum review.

Teachers: Foreigners

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many non-EU nationals were employed as *(a)* primary school and *(b)* secondary school teachers in England in each of the last five years. [132863]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Community Development: Grants

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many community groups have applied for a Connected Fund Round 6 grant; [135144]

(2) how much he expects to be allocated in grants from the Connected Fund in each of the next two financial years; [135145]

(3) what plans his Department has to increase publicity for the Connected Fund in future years; [135146]

(4) when the application process will open for grants in the Connected Fund Round 7; [135147]

(5) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Connected Fund grants in reducing the levels of gun crime in areas where grants have been made. [135148]

Mr. Coaker: 363 applications for grants have been received under Round six of the Connected Fund. An Assessment Panel will assess these applications on 3-4 May. A further Round may be held later this year, but a firm decision on this has not yet been taken.

Budgets for 2008-09 and 2009-10 have not yet been confirmed, so it is not possible to give any figures on funding that may be allocated to the Connected Fund in these years at this stage.

We publicise the Fund through direct mailing to community groups, through the Government Offices for the Regions, and through local media reporting. This has worked well, with each round of the Fund substantially over-subscribed.

The Home Office is currently developing an evaluation of the effectiveness of project funding on guns, gangs and knives, covering both the Connected Fund and wider project funding. The Fund supports one part of our strategy to tackle gun crime, which focuses on policing, powers and prevention. Many of the grants from the Connected Fund are for projects to support young people as part of the long-term prevention strand.

Figures released on 26 April show a reduction of 16 per cent. in overall gun crime in England and Wales in the 12 months to December 2006.

Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill. [134191]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As the Minister responsible for the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill, I discuss the Bill with a wide range of colleagues in Government and in Parliament and with stakeholders. The Department also receives a range of correspondence relating to the Bill.

DC Stephen Oake

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will recommend DC Stephen Oake for a posthumous George Cross. [107856]

John Reid *[holding answer 7 December 2006]:* I was deeply saddened by the tragic circumstances of DC Oake's death. His courage will inspire officers young and old for years to come. The sacrifice he made in the line of duty is appreciated by us all, especially me.

There are a range of honours to recognise bravery. Recommendations on a George Cross are made by the senior officials on the George Cross Committee and not by the Home Secretary or any other Minister. Any recommendations by the George Cross Committee to award a George Cross is submitted to Her Majesty the Queen by the Prime Minister.

Departments: Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value of contracts signed by his Department with Mapeley Abi was in each of the last three years. [125936]

Joan Ryan: A contract has been signed with Mapeley Abi Provider Ltd. to provide IPS with premises and facilities management services. The contract value is £55 million for a contract period of three years.

Dispersal Orders

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dispersal orders were issued by each police force in each year since they were introduced. [134215]

Mr. Coaker: Data provided by police forces shows that between 1 January 2004 and 31 March 2006 1,065 areas were designated with dispersal powers in England and Wales. The following table provides a breakdown of this total by police force. Data for the period since 1 April 2006 are not yet available.

Designated dispersal orders: January 2004 to 31 March 2006

Force	*Number of areas designated*
Avon and Somerset	30
Bedfordshire	29
Cambridgeshire	31
Cheshire	1
City of London	[1]—
Cleveland	30
Cumbria	2
Derbyshire	22
Devon and Cornwall	49
Dorset	31
Durham	2
Dyfed Powys	[1]—
Essex	24
Gloucestershire	1
Greater Manchester	45
Gwent	6
Hampshire	69
Hertfordshire	20
Humberside	15
Kent	73
Lancashire	18
Leicestershire	30
Lincolnshire	4
Merseyside	70
Metropolitan Police	[2]—
Norfolk	18
North Wales	16
North Yorkshire	6
Northamptonshire	67
Northumbria	3
Nottinghamshire	40
South Wales	2
South Yorkshire	16
Staffordshire	30
Suffolk	5
Surrey	33
Sussex	35
Thames Valley	6
Warwickshire	22
West Midlands	123
West Yorkshire	22
West Mercia	[2]—
Wiltshire	19
Total	1,065

[1] No areas designated.
[2] No data provided.

Entry Clearances

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department expects to issue entry clearance to Mr. Mohammed Shabir (reference S1329282). [134298]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

According to our High Commission in Islamabad a letter inviting Mr. Shabir to submit his passport was sent out on 27 April. As soon as the passport has been received the entry clearance can be issued.

Milan Spanovic

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons Milan Spanovic has not been extradited to Croatia; and if he will make a statement. [134970]

Joan Ryan: On 20 March 2007, Mr. Spanovic was discharged from extradition proceedings by a District Judge at City of Westminster Magistrates Court. This was entirely a matter for the court. The Crown Prosecution Service has lodged an appeal on behalf of the Government of Croatia. As the matter remains before the courts, I cannot comment further.

Miscarriages of Justice

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support is provided to persons released from prison after a successful appeal in court. [134805]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Office established in 2003 the Royal Courts of Justice advisory service to help those who have been successful on appeal. Help is provided on things like documents to establish identity, finding accommodation, signing up for social security benefits, getting onto a GP's list, how to obtain legal assistance as well as practical advice on day-to-day matters, such as obtaining a bank account. In some cases the service also provides longer term casework support and counselling. Successful appellants may also be able to claim compensation from the Home Secretary depending on the circumstances of the case.

Offences

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, to Question 131083, on Leyhill Open Prison, for what reasons it was not possible to provide the same level of information on offence details as that given in the answer of 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1134W, on prisons. [133136]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since answering the hon. Gentleman's PQ in June 2006 the Prison Service has adopted new procedures to provide such statistics. These procedures employ a smaller data set which is validated more rigorously. This follows errors in some figures supplied last year. These data do not include offence details which could be provided now only at disproportionate cost.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what accredited alcohol treatment programmes with ring-fenced funding there are in prisons in England and Wales. [133974]

Mr. Sutcliffe: NOMS is piloting two alcohol treatment programmes in prisons with a view to accreditation. While no accredited programmes targeted solely at alcohol misuse are currently in place, prisons deploy a range of measures to support those with an alcohol problem:

detoxification is available in all local and remand prisons;

where alcohol is part of a wider substance misuse problem the full range of drug interventions are available;

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) run groups in about 50 per cent. of prisons;

some prisons run alcohol awareness courses;

an alcohol information pack and awareness video is available for all prisoners; and

the young persons substance misuse service for 16 to 18-year-olds has a particular focus on alcohol.

Funding for alcohol treatment is not ring fenced.

Offenders: Unemployed

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of people (i) charged with a crime and (ii) imprisoned who were unemployed; and what the equivalent figures were (A) 10 years ago and (B) 20 years ago. [134137]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform is unable to provide the number and proportion of people charged and imprisoned who were unemployed, as the individual circumstances of offenders is not centrally held.

Police Cautions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place for reviewing the appropriateness of the local use of conditional cautions for criminal offences; and if he will make a statement. [134947]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Conditional cautions are a statutory pre-court disposal which must be administered in line with the Code of Practice for Conditional Cautions and the Director of Public Prosecution's Guidance on Conditional Cautioning. The conditional cautioning scheme is currently being rolled out on a national basis. Criminal justice areas must demonstrate they have met all the implementation criteria, including adequate training before the scheme can be introduced.

The use of conditional cautions is monitored centrally and locally on the basis of monthly data. In addition, area implementation teams have been asked to engage with local judiciary, to provide them with feedback on the operation of the scheme and to enable them to raise any issues of concern.

Police Custody

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1637W, on police custody, how many police officers were involved in the deployment of Operation Safeguard between *(a)* 12 October and 22 December 2006 and *(b)* 22 January and 9 March 2007; and which police forces were involved in each case. [133151]

John Reid: Staffing requirements for police cells being used as part of Operation Safeguard are a matter for individual police forces. These figures are not collected centrally.

Prison Service: Managers

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms exist *(a)* to monitor and *(b)* to compare the performance of area managers within HM Prison Service; when each Prison Service area manager was appointed; what assessment he has made of the performance of the area manager for each Prison Service area; and if he will make a statement. [134539]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All area managers are managed by the deputy director general in HM Prison Service who is accountable for operational performance. The deputy director general has a wide range of management information against which to compare establishments and areas. Information performance is published in the annual report and is available via the Prison Service website.

Area managers are members of the senior civil service (SCS) and are subject to the SCS performance appraisal system.

Prisoners

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were serving an indeterminate sentence in each of the last three years, broken down by category of offence. [132348]

John Reid: Figures by offence group for the numbers of prisoners serving life and indeterminate sentences in England and Wales between 2003 and 2005, the last year for which figures are available, can be found in the following table. These figures are taken from table

8.25 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics for these years, copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Population of Prisoners serving life and indeterminate sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales, at June 30, 2003-2005

Type of Offence	2003	2004	2005
Murder	3,698	3,726	3,870
Manslaughter	172	177	170
Other homicide and attempted homicide	144	159	161
Other Violence against the person	460	509	586
Rape	534	573	628
Other sexual offence	51	50	49
Other offences	257	293	311
Arson	102	108	106
Total	5,419	5,594	5,882

Prisoners: Release

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of prisoners were granted early release under the home detention curfew scheme in each year since its introduction. [133344]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures on the numbers of prisoners granted early release under the home detention curfew scheme between 1999 and 2005 can be found in the table. This table is also published as table 10.3 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library and which is available online at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1806section10.xls

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Home Detention Curfew release[1] and population figures by sex

Number/percentage

England and Wales	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Population with sentences of three months to less than four years	49,527	55,344	54,064	55,370	57,551	55,810	54,616
Males	46248	51,533	50,303	51,413	53,256	51,282	50,246
Females	3,279	3,811	3,761	3,957	4,295	4,528	4,370
Number released on HDC	14,847	15,510	13,649	20,456	21,188	19,294	17,296
Males	13,523	14,005	12,121	18,509	19,050	17,159	15,392
Females	1,324	1,505	1,528	1,947	2,138	2,135	1,904
Percentage released	30	28	25	37	37	35	32
Males	29	27	24	36	36	33	31
Females	40	39	41	49	50	47	44
Population on HDC at end of year[2]	2,000	1,700	1,700	3,100	3,700	3,400	3,300

[1] These statistics are based on information recorded on the central prison IT system on 7 October 2006. Further updates and amendments may be made to records on this system in future resulting in revised figures.
[2] Rounded to the nearest 100.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many foreign prisoners in prisons in England and Wales no country of origin was known on 31 March. [132930]

Mr. Sutcliffe: At the end of February 2007, the last date for which the information is available, there were 879 out of a total prison population of 79,582 (or about 1 per cent. of the prison population) prisoners detained in all prisons in England and Wales whose nationality was listed on the IT system as "unrecorded". This figure includes instances where the prisoners' nationality is unknown, where they have refused to give it, and where they are stateless.

The figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 546-7W, on

prisons, what his assessment is of the relative significance of each of the six main drug supply routes into prison; what policies are in place to close off each of the routes; what steps he has taken to ensure that these policies are operating as standard in each prison in England and Wales; and on what date these policies were introduced. [134075]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The supply of drugs into prisons does not take place within a static environment. The supply route of choice will vary between prisons and at a particular prison over a period of time, depending on the demand for illicit drugs by prisoners and the effectiveness of supply reduction measures in place. The relative significance of supply routes therefore changes frequently.

The comprehensive range of supply reduction measures available to prisons is designed to address the key routes of supply. Decisions about which measures should be deployed are a matter for individual establishments, based on local need.

The Supply Reduction Good Practice Guide, issued in October 2003 and currently being updated, provides a benchmark for supply reduction policy.

Supply reduction performance is monitored by Area Managers during routine visits to prisons and bilateral meetings with Governors and the Deputy Director General. Area Drug Co-ordinators receive monthly data on performance targets from establishments.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners are subject to *(a)* closed visits and *(b)* extra monitoring arrangements at each prison establishment due to drug-related concerns; and if he will make a statement. [134708]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not collected centrally.

Prisons: Telephones

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to implement the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's recommendation that the cost of telephone calls in prisons be reduced. [133987]

John Reid: I am satisfied that in the majority of cases calls made by prisoners from prisons are cheaper than an equivalent call made from a public phone box. There are therefore no plans to reduce the cost of these calls.

Probation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe) requested his private office to draw up a list of the chief officers of probation and chairs of probation boards who were thought to be positive supporters of the Offender Management Bill; for what purpose this list was intended; and whether any persons named on the list were subsequently appointed probation area chairman as of 1 April 2007. [134014]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is entirely normal and appropriate for a Minister to seek the views and opinions of stakeholders throughout the progress of legislation. This can seek to identify positive supporters of the legislation and I requested information on stakeholders throughout the legislation process. This is in line with the ministerial code. The process for appointment of chairs of probation area boards was one of free and open competition following the best practice of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Probation: Greater London

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received on the conduct of the new chairman of the London probation board previous to receiving her current appointment; and if he will make a statement. [134598]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Office has received no representations on the conduct of the new chairman of the London probation board, previous to receiving her current appointment.

Rape: Detection Rates

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has conducted into conviction rates for rape in different areas of England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [130605]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office undertakes occasional research which covers regional variations in conviction rates.

The Home Office-commissioned study "A gap or a chasm? Attrition in reported rape cases" (Kelly, Lovett and Regan, 2005) focused on the general process by which rape cases are "lost" from the criminal justice system but did include a statistical analysis of conviction rates by police force area using routinely collected administrative data.

The Home Office is currently concluding a study of rape attrition in eight force areas in England and Wales which is more explicitly aimed at improving our understanding as to why conviction (and detection) rates vary across the country. This study will be published in 2007.

Weare Prison

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 21 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 975W, on Weare prison, how much expenditure, and on what, would have been required to keep HMP Weare open. [133778]

Mr. Sutcliffe: An investment appraisal undertaken in January 2005 identified that a number of significant shortcomings would prevent the continued effective operation of the Weare as it lacked the necessary space for workshop, education and exercise facilities and required extensive refurbishment. In addition the living accommodation was unsuitable and much of it had limited access to natural light. The review estimated that to continue operation for another seven years with an improved regime would have cost around £60 million on a net present value (NPV) basis.

Young Offenders: Rape

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many youths aged 18 years or under were convicted of rape in England and Wales for each year since 1997. [133790]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table shows data extracted from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform in respect of convictions for rape committed by youths in England and Wales from 1997 to 2005.

Number of defendants aged 18 years or under convicted of rape at all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005[1,2]

	Age		
	10 to 15	*16 to 18*	*Total*
1997	25	52	77
1998	16	28	44
1999	26	51	77
2000	16	43	59
2001	19	39	58
2002	12	36	48
2003	16	34	50
2004	23	33	56
2005	32	74	106

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform

WALES

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Department in the last 12 months. [135165]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135163]

Mr. Hain: None.

Health Services: Wales

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on cross-border issues affecting health services in Wales. [134446]

Mr. Hain: I regularly meet with the First Minister when we discuss a range of issues, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales, my hon. Friend the Member for Carmarthen, West and South Pembrokeshire (Nick Ainger) regularly meets with the Assembly Minister for Health and Social Services, when he discusses issues including cross border matters in the health service in Wales.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Gambling: Licensing

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what representations the Better Regulation Executive has made to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005; and if she will make a statement. [134856]

Mr. McFadden: Ministers attend many meetings as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the normal practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

Regulatory Reform Act 2001

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on how many occasions and for what purposes the extended powers given to Ministers by the Regulatory Reform Act 2001 have been used since it received Royal Assent. [134985]

Mr. McFadden: 30 Regulatory Reform Orders (RROs) have been passed under the Regulatory Reform Act and five further RROs are currently before Parliament. RROs were for purposes as diverse as amending Sunday trading rules, simplifying fire safety legislation and removing game licensing requirements. Comprehensive information can be found on the Cabinet Office's Better Regulation Executive website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/reform/orders/proposals.asp

The Regulatory Reform Act 2001 was repealed by the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act which came into force on 8 January 2006.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Poverty

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in a household with neither parent in employment in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [131281]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following tables.

Children in workless households—UK

	Number (Thousand)
Spring	
1997	2,214
1998	2,216
1999	2,156
2000	1,980
2001	1,915
2002	1,978
2003	1,892
2004	1,861
2005	1,814
2006	1,744

Children in workless households—North East (spring quarter)

	Number (Thousand)
Q2	
1997	123
1998	133
1999	135
2000	118
2001	108
2002	96
2003	122
2004	105
2005	89
2006	83

Note:
Because of the small sample size, the data provided above should be considered as indicative rather than exact.
Source:
Labour Force Survey, Spring 2006.

To measure progress relating to children in workless households (CIWH) the Department uses the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS). However, it is not possible to disaggregate this data below Government office region.

The information in the following table uses administrative data to provide the number of children dependent on workless benefits in the Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside. A timeline has been provided from 2004 onwards, the first year where the data are available.

Number of children in workless households

	April		
	2004	*2005*	*2006*
Jarrow parliamentary constituency	4,145	3,840	3,585
South Tyneside local authority	9,020	8,405	7,895

Notes:
1. The official definition of a CIWH is a child aged under 16 in a working-age household where no adult works. The administrative data are an inexact proxy for this as they chart all children under 16 in a working-age household who have at least one parent claiming workless benefits (IS, JSA, IB/SDA, and PC). 2. The administrative data do not incorporate in their definition workless adults who do not claim benefits. The definition used also differs from the standard CIWH definition in that it includes children in households with both working and non-working adults, as opposed to a household with no working adults. 3. Furthermore adults working part-time may also be eligible for IS, and such claimants may be included in the administrative data.
4. The information on those claiming income-related social security benefit is not available.
Source: DWP Information Directorate.

Employment Schemes

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what response he has made to David Freud's recommendation that back to work support for the hardest to help claimants should be provided by contracted organisations. [131829]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government are considering David Freud's recommendations carefully and will respond in the summer.

Income Support: Disqualification

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sanctions were imposed on lone parents claiming income support in each quarter since 1997. [123580]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 26 February 2007]*: Other than sanctions in relation to work focused interviews, the information is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

For the available information on sanctions in relation to work focused interviews, I refer my right hon. Friend to the written answer I gave him on 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1147-48W.

Industrial Health and Safety: Factories

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there were any *(a)* incidents involving and *(b)* prosecutions in which proceedings are not ongoing related to harmful emissions at the Sonae factory in Kirkby in each of the last four years. [133311]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

Knowsley borough council is responsible for regulating emissions to the atmosphere from this factory under part I of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations 2000.

The council advises that the number of incidents (both complaints and reported incidents) and prosecutions relating to this factory in the last four years are as follows:

	Complaints	*Reported incidents*	*Prosecutions*
2004	278	49	3
2005	311	152	0
2006	196	24	0
2007	104	8	0

The subject of complaints against Sonae include odour, dust, smoke, fumes, and noise from the Kirby factory. Knowsley borough council advises that a small proportion of the complaints were subsequently found to be unconnected with Sonae. The company has also challenged an unspecified number of complaints.

The number of incidents shown in the above table reflects the formal reports which Sonae has submitted. In accordance with their authorisation requirement, Sonae is required to report incidents likely to have an effect on the community. The three prosecutions in 2004 concerned a failure to monitor emissions, failure to comply with an enforcement notice, and failure to comply with an information notice. In total, these resulted in £13,000 worth of fines.

Factories such as this have the potential to emit various substances including oxides of sulphur and nitrogen, particulate matter, lead, volatile organic compounds, isocyanates, and aldehydes.

Industrial Injuries Benefits

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to question 126417, on industrial injuries benefits, tabled by the hon. Member for Bradford North on 6 March 2007. [132548]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 19 April 2007]*: Question number 126417 relating to industrial injuries benefits was tabled on 7 March 2007 and a reply was given to my hon. Friend on 14 March 2007, *Official Report* column 371-72W.

Jobseeker's Allowance/Incapacity Benefit

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of people who made a new claim for incapacity benefit in the most recent year for which figures are available in *(a)* Pathways to Work pilot areas and *(b)* other areas were in work (i) six months and (ii) one year later; and how many there were (A) in total, (B) aged 25 to 49 and (C) aged over 50 years. [114623]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In estimating the impact of Pathways to Work, independent evaluation by the Institute for Fiscal Studies found a 9 percentage point increase in the proportion of those who are employed 10.5 months after claiming incapacity benefit.

The information in the table comes from data in the National Benefits Database and the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) which are likely to underestimate the numbers and proportions of people who satisfy the given criteria. Rollout of Pathways to Work has been a staged process and the figures therefore only represent the first two phases which rolled out on 24 October 2003 and 5 April 2004.

	Proportion (percentage)	*Total*	*Aged 25-49*	*Aged 50 and over*
New claims to incapacity benefit in Pathways to Work pilot areas: April 2004-March 2005				
In work six months later	22	11,560	5,950	3,400
In work one year later	26	13,830	7,190	4,040
New claims to incapacity benefit in other areas: April 2004-March 2005				
In work six months later	20	110,100	57,880	31,190
In work one year later	24	129,310	68,180	36,500

Notes:

1. Data on employment are available to 26 November 2006. As such, the latest operational year of new claimants for which (a) and (c) are answerable is April 2004 to March 2005, and the latest operational year of claims reaching their first anniversary for which (b) and (d) are answerable is April 2003 to March 2004 (and thus relates to people making a new claim during April 2002 and March 2003).
2. The figures quoted in this response come from data in the National Benefits Database and the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS).
3. Figures in this response are based upon periods of employment measured from the WPLS, which is based on data from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The figures given can only be taken as a minimum for the following (not necessarily comprehensive) reasons:

(i) Some records show that a person started or ended employment at some point in the year, but the exact date on when they started or left their job is unknown, and therefore we do not know if they were employed at the points in time specified in this query.
(ii) If a person's earnings are sufficiently low that they fall below the lower income tax threshold and so are not required to pay PAYE income tax on their earnings then there is no requirement to inform HMRC of their employment (although some employers declare these jobs anyway).
(iii) These data do not include the self-employed.
(iv) Poor quality personal data may lead to missed matches with benefits data.
(v) No 'HMRC sensitive and secure' information is supplied by HMRC (for example, HMRC employees, members of the security services).

National Identity Fraud Unit

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget was of the National Identity Fraud Unit and its forerunners in each year since 1997; how many staff the unit employed in each year; and what the Government's performance targets were for the unit in each year. [124084]

Mr. Plaskitt: As a result of organisational and other changes it is not possible to separately identify National Identity Fraud Unit (NIFU) budgets prior to 2006-07. For 2006-07, the budget allocation for NIFU was £508,092.

Information regarding the number of staff employed in NIFU is not available prior to 2003-04. In 2003-04 it employed 24.8 full-time equivalent staff. In both 2004-05 and 2005-06 it employed 19.1 full-time equivalent staff and in 2006-07 it employed 20 full-time equivalent staff.

NIFU did not have separate performance targets prior to 2005-06. The available information is in the following table.

National Identity Fraud Unit performance targets

	Number of arrest packs to be produced[1]	*Number of flags to be put on national insurance number accounts*[2]
2005-06	500	3,600
2006-07	550	4,000

Notes:
1. Arrest Packs
From the documents sent to NIFU for examination and identified as being false/fraudulent, arrest packs containing the document and supporting evidence from the national insurance number (NINO) interview, an initial statement from the document examiner, a visual copy of the anomalies found and all relevant paperwork required by Fraud Investigation Service (Organised) are produced. The pack is then sealed and sent to FIS (O) for consideration of prosecution.
2. Flags Part of NIFU's remit is the protection of NINO accounts. Where NIFU have found a NINO account to be vulnerable or believed to have fraudulent activity occurring on it then an electronic (flag) marker is put onto the account. Any benefit activity on the NINO account is reported within three working days by a reactivation report. This is then passed by NIFU to the relevant office for investigation, or confirmation that the person the NINO account belongs to is actually the person making the claim to the benefit.
Source:
National Identity Fraud Unit.

National Insurance

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 641W, on national insurance, how many national insurance numbers *(a)* are allocated to adults not resident in the UK and *(b)* have been allocated to 16-year-olds since 2001. [131691]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 16 April 2007]*: Information is not available as to how many national insurance numbers are in issue to adults not resident in the UK.

Information regarding the number of national insurance numbers allocated to 16-year-olds is not available in the format requested.

The vast majority of national insurance numbers are issued to people at the age of 15 years and 9 months under the Juvenile Registration Process. The available information is that between January 2004 and March 2007, 2,604,757 national insurance numbers were issued under the Juvenile Registration Process.

Remploy: Manpower

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the reports produced by consultants to his Department since 2001 relating to Remploy; and what changes in staff numbers were recommended by each. [133553]

Mrs. McGuire: The reports produced by consultants are listed in the following table.

	Consultant	*Purpose*
2003-04	KPMG	External assurance and analysis of Remploy's commercial performance as a non-departmental public body
2004-05	KPMG	External assurance and analysis of Remploy's commercial performance as a non-departmental public body
2005-06	KPMG	External assurance and analysis of Remploy's commercial performance as a non-departmental public body
2006-07	PricewaterhouseCoopers	External review of the future business options for Remploy

The Department has not sought recommendations from consultants concerning changes in staff numbers, but the report from PricewaterhouseCoopers looked at various options for the future of the business.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to improve access to information on financial support for families with disabled children. [131825]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government are committed to improving the life chances of disabled people, including disabled children, so that they have opportunities and choices that enable them to participate fully in society. We also want to ensure that every parent of a disabled child or young person has access to, and is aware of, the financial support available to contribute towards extra cost benefits, the principal one among these being Disability Living Allowance.

The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) will be working across Government to drive forward the development and implementation of policy to improve the lives of disabled people, including disabled children. It has a project looking specifically at strategic and inclusive ways of improving information provision to disabled people, with an emphasis on recommending and developing ways to involve the users of information in designing and tailoring it to their needs.

The Disability and Carer's Service (DCS) is an agency that continues to focus on delivering improved services to disabled people and carers in Great Britain. This includes improving the information provided to customers and their representatives.

DCS has established the Family Carers Group. This is a forum which allows DCS to engage and involve voluntary and community organisations in representing the needs of children and young people who are customers of Disability Living Allowance, as well as their families and carers, in the transformation of DCS services.

DCS actively promotes services to children through a number of outreach events specifically aimed at children to raise awareness about the benefits to which disabled children may be entitled. These included 'Kidz up North' on 30 November 2006 and 'Kidz South' on 15 March 2007. Both of these were events aimed at families of children with disabilities and on each occasion DCS provided an exhibition stand with staff to answer questions and provide literature on benefits available to disabled people.

Written Questions

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to Question 116900, on benefits sanctions on lone parents, tabled by the hon. Member for Bradford North on 16 January 2007 for answer on 19 January 2007. [126415]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 9 March 2007]*: A reply was given to my hon. Friend on 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 784W.

Young People: Employment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many 18 to 24-year-olds who were neither in education, employment and training, nor claiming jobseeker's allowance nor engaged in the new deal for young people there were in each quarter since 1996; [121232]

(2) how many 18 to 24-year-olds were not in education, employment and training in each quarter since 1996. [121233]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 19 February 2007]*: The information requested is in the following table.

Date	*18-24 not in employment, education or training*[1]
Spring 1996	860,000
Summer 1996	956,000
Autumn 1996	863,000
Winter 1996	805,000
Spring 1997	759,000
Summer 1997	871,000
Autumn 1997	706,000
Winter 1997	709,000
Spring 1998	699,000
Summer 1998	795,000
Autumn 1998	710,000
Winter 1998	705,000
Spring 1999	667,000
Summer 1999	781,000
Autumn 1999	678,000
Winter 1999	692,000
Spring 2000	665,000
Summer 2000	746,000
Autumn 2000	673,000
Winter 2000	681,000
Spring 2001	655,000
Summer 2001	740,000
Autumn 2001	708,000
Winter 2001	701,000
Spring 2002	685,000
Summer 2002	787,000
Autumn 2002	699,000
Winter 2002	710,000
Spring 2003	703,000
Summer 2003	803,000
Autumn 2003	702,000
Winter 2003	672,000
Spring 2004	682,000
Summer 2004	805,000
Autumn 2004	749,000
Winter 2004	736,000
Spring 2005	752,000
Summer 2005	831,000
Autumn 2005	801,000
Winter 2005	792,000
Spring 2006	780,000

[1] Rounded to the nearest thousand.

Note:
NEET numbers are calculated using the DFES statistical definition. These data are seasonally unadjusted and so any comparisons should be made on a year to year basis.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 114W, on accident and emergency (A and E) departments, what assessment she has made of the reasons behind the increase in the number of admissions via type 1 A and E departments referred to. [131887]

Andy Burnham: Demand management, including the number of patients admitted as an emergency via accident and emergency departments, is something that we would expect the local national health service to look at and monitor.

Data trends do suggest that there has been a particular increase recently in the number of very short stay admissions nationally. This is good patient care. Patients requiring more than four hours of care are entitled to the same levels of comfort and care as any other hospital patient. Patients may be admitted to assessment units or sometimes specialist wards where the next stages of investigation and care can take place in appropriate surroundings.

Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were referred for the urgent treatment of cancer in each quarter since the quarter beginning January 2005. [131946]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The NHS Cancer Plan contained the target that from the end of 2005 all cancer patients would wait a maximum of two months (62 days) from urgent general practitioner referral to first cancer treatment. Not all cancer patients are referred urgently by their general practitioner (GP), so the NHS Cancer Plan also contained the target that all cancer patients would be treated a maximum of one month (31 days) from diagnosis of cancer. The number of patients treated against these targets is shown in the following table.

	Quarter	Total number of patients referred for urgent cancer treatment within 62 days by their GP	Total number treated within of cancer of patients to be 31 days of diagnosis
2004-05	4	9,114	37,122
2005-06	1	11,021	42,576
	2	12,908	45,532
	3	14,371	47,872
	4	16,755	49,746
2006-07	1	17,884	50,167
	2	19,147	51,582
	3	19,605	51,268

Further information on cancer waiting times performance is published at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk/cancerwaits

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was to the NHS of drugs used in the treatment of cancer in each of the last 15 years. [133667]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not routinely collect figures on the cost to the national health service of cancer treatment drugs.

In 2005, the Department completed a tracking investment exercise which showed that between 2000-01 and 2003-04 spending on drugs for cancer treatment increased by £192 million, but we do not know the baseline figure.

Total NHS expenditure on cancer services, which includes drugs, was £4.3 billion in 2005-06, which equates to 5.4 per cent. of all NHS spending.

Coeliac Disease

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support her Department has provided for research into coeliac disease in each of the last three years. [134394]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a substantial number concerned with coeliac disease are available on the national research register at:

www.dh.gov.uk/research

The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the NHS and through its Health Technology Assessment Programme has funded research into coeliac disease as part of a study concerned primarily with the use of cognitive behavioural therapy in the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome.

The Hammersmith and St. Mary's and Imperial College Biomedical Research Centre formed as part of the implementation of the Government's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" proposes to undertake research on the prevalence of coeliac disease and its histological definition as part of its hepatology and gastroenterology research theme.

In addition, the Food Standards Authority has commissioned a systematic review of the literature on thresholds for reactivity to gluten that will lead to benefits for people who need to follow a gluten free diet.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in improving the *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* treatment of coeliac disease. [134395]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Diagnosis of coeliac disease can be difficult for general practitioners as the symptoms are common to many other conditions. Improvements in diagnosis have therefore concentrated on raising awareness of this condition among health professionals and the general public. The PRODIGY website www.prodigy.nhs.uk contains specific information useful for health professionals and people who have been newly diagnosed with the disease.

There is no specific treatment for those living with coeliac disease. However, symptoms can be kept under control with a strict gluten-free diet. Most people with coeliac disease receive advice from their general practitioner (GP) on self-management of their condition, and specifically on the exclusion of foods containing gluten from their diet. A wide range of gluten-free foods are available on national health service prescription and these may be prescribed where a GP considers it necessary to ensure effective self-management of the condition.

Dental Health: Children

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number and percentage of children under the age of five with tooth decay in *(a)* Shropshire, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England. [133320]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not available centrally, but data from a survey conducted in 2005-06 by the British Association for Study of Community Dentistry of children who were five years old are as follows.

Five-year-old children with tooth decay

	Total number	Percentage
Shropshire	891	31.0
West Midlands	15,866	26.9
England	170,032	33.3

Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much patient charge income for delivering NHS dentistry *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the NHS Business Services Authority estimates each primary care trust received in 2006-07. [131882]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Neither the Department nor the NHS Business Services Authority is in a position to make a reliable estimate of patient charge revenue ahead of receiving final outturn data for the full financial year. Dentists have up to two months after the end of the financial year to submit final details of charges collected.

Dental Services: Contracts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* general dental services contracts and *(b)* personal dental services contracts signed by, or on, 1 April 2006 on an in dispute basis remain in dispute, broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) area; and what proportion of contracts signed in each SHA area this represents. [131936]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The most recent available information on dental contracts that were in dispute (as at 31 January 2007) is set out in the following table. This information is not collected in a form that can be broken down into general dental services and personal dental services contracts.

New SHA	*Total number of dental contracts signed in April 2006*	*Number of dental contracts in dispute as at 31 January 2007*	*Percentage of dental contracts signed in April 2006 that remained in dispute as at 31 January 2007*
East Midlands	595	88	14.8
East of England	925	64	6.9
London	1,380	133	9.6
North East	355	6	1.7
North West	1,171	54	4.6
South Central	639	45	7.0
South East Coast	756	56	7.4
South West	832	58	7.0
West Midlands	1,020	98	9.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	704	108	15.3
England	8,377	710	8.5

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists in *(a)* England, *(b)* each strategic health authority and *(c)* each primary care trust (i) rejected the new dental contract on 1 April 2006, (ii) disputed the contract, (iii) disputed but have now accepted the contract and (iv) have not yet resolved their disputed contract; and what percentage of those who were offered the contract these numbers represent in each case. [129896]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Dental Services: Funding

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much Dental Service Increment for Teaching funding was made available to each strategic health authority for the year 2006-07; what proportion of this has been spent by each strategic health authority on dental education; and how this expenditure has been accounted for; [133054]

(2) whether the expenditure by strategic health authorities of their Dental Service Increment for Teaching funding is ring-fenced for the stated purpose of the funding; [133055]

(3) what steps she is taking to ensure that the Dental Service Increment for Teaching budget is being used by strategic health authorities for its planned purpose. [133056]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No funding was allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2006-07 in respect of the dental service increment for teaching (dental SIFT). All the dental SIFT funding was allocated to the national dental workforce unit, hosted by the Yorkshire and the Humber SHA who allocated this funding directly to the national health service trusts that host dental hospitals linked to dental schools.

Dental Services: Manpower

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to increase the number of NHS dentists. [132869]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest available data show there were 20,887 dentists eligible to provide national health service dental services or listed on NHS contracts in England as at 31 December 2006. This is around 1,500 more than in March 2005 and over 4,000 more than in 1997. Under the dental reforms introduced in April 2006, primary care trusts (PCTs) are commissioning an increasing volume of NHS dental services, which is likely to result in further workforce increases. In 2005, the Government expanded the number of dental school places by 25 per cent. in order to support longer-term increases in the dental workforce.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of dentists who qualified in the last 15 years who are still practising in England. [133400]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not available.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of dentists who practise in the NHS who were trained abroad. [133401]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The available information is for England. The latest information available is as at 31 March 2006. As of that date, there were 4,163 dentists reported as eligible to provide national health service services in England who had qualified outside the United Kingdom.

Fuller information including a breakdown by country of qualification is available in table 8 of "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006", which has been placed in the Library.

The report, published by The Information Centre for health and social care, is also available online at: www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists qualified in the UK in each of the last 15 years. [132728]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of dentists who have graduated from dental schools in the United Kingdom is available from 1992.

	Dental graduates
1992-93	783
1993-94	730
1994-95	649
1995-96	650
1996-97	722
1997-98	768
1998-99	782
1999-2000	798
2000-01	815
2001-02	800
2002-03	749
2003-04	779
2004-05	800
2005-06	802

Dental Services: Pay

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the average NHS income of NHS high street dentists in each year since 1997. [131860]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The gross remuneration paid to providers of national health service dental services covers both the practice expenses incurred in providing services and the dentists' net income. Estimated average annual net incomes for general dental service (GDS) dentists with a reasonable commitment to the NHS, after taking account of the proportion of their gross income committed to meeting practice expenses, are shown in the table.

The data cover dentists working under the terms of the former GDS, which represented the majority of dentists working in primary dental care during the years in question.

Estimated average GDS net income for dentists with a reasonable GDS commitment[1], 1997-98 to 2005-06, England and Wales

Financial year	*Estimated average net income[2,3] (£)*
1997-98	51,200
1998-99	54,300
1999-2000	55,700
Break in series[3]	
2000-01[2]	59,200
2001-02	60,500
2002-03	63,300
Break in series[3]	
2003-04	72,000
2004-05	71,600
2005-06	76,500

[1] Dentists with a reasonable commitment to the GDS are defined as dentists with GDS gross earnings equivalent to at least £40,000 in 1993-94 in fees for treatments and patient capitation. This equivalent is calculated each year by adjusting figures to take into account the effect of fee increases. The equivalent figure for 2005-06 is £62,200.

[2] Average net income is estimated using the ratio of expenses to gross GDS fee income for principals who worked for the full 12 month period.

[3] The ratio of expenses to gross income is estimated using HMRC tax data on the overall earnings and expenses of non-associate dentists. Average net income prior to 2003-04 is estimated by multiplying the average gross GDS payment in that year (based on BSA payment data) by the most up to date profit ratio available for that year (based on HMRC data). For 2003-04 and 2004-05, net income has been estimated using GDS payment data for each year multiplied by the profit ratio for dentists with a high commitment to the NHS for the respective year. The net income estimate for 2005-06 is based on the profit ratio of high-commitment dentists in 2004-05 (the latest currently available).

[4] Figures since 2000-01 use a different methodology to calculate the contribution from other non-fee/capitation payments.

Source:
Department of Health and Information Centre for health and social care, analysis of NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) payments and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) tax data.

Dental Services: Wiltshire

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what additional funding she expects the Wiltshire and Swindon primary care trust to receive in 2007 to pay for additional NHS dentistry; and if she will make a statement. [133168]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The primary dental service allocations for the Wiltshire and Swindon primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are set out in the following table. The table includes the indicative assumptions made before the start of each year about gross budgets and patient charge income. A number of factors will affect the actual levels of gross expenditure and patient charge income, including the levels of dentistry commissioned by PCTs, the time needed for new dental services to be commissioned and come into operation, and changes in the mix of charge-paying and charge exempt patients treated. PCTs may direct additional funding to dentistry from their general national health service resources if they consider this appropriate in the light of local circumstances and priorities.

Primary dental service allocations in Wiltshire and Swindon PCTs

£000

	Wiltshire PCT			*Swindon PCT*		
Financial year	*Net allocation*	*Indicative patient charge revenue*	*Indicative gross budget*	*Net allocation*	*Indicative patient charge revenue*	*Indicative gross budget*
2006-07	10,727	4,479	15,205	4,418	2,141	6,559
2007-08	11,366	4,439	15,805	4,781	2,135	6,916

Notes:
1. The allocation for Wiltshire PCT for 2006-07 represents the aggregate of the primary dental service allocations initially allocated to the Kennet and North Wiltshire, South Wiltshire, and West Wiltshire PCTs before their amalgamation to form the Wiltshire PCT on 1 October 2006.
2. Allocations exclude any supplementary funding awarded by the South West strategic health authority to fund the placement of dental vocational trainees.

Diabetes: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of people identified as having diabetes in England were offered screening for the early detection of diabetic retinopathy in *(a)* each year since 2003-04 and *(b)* the most recent period for which figures are available. [131925]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the number and percentage of people with diabetes offered screening for diabetic retinopathy, broken down by years.

	Number of people with diabetes offered screening for diabetic retinopathy[1]	*Percentage of people with diabetes offered screening for diabetic retinopathy*[1]
2003-04	835,900	52.7
2004-05	1,076,400	61.3
2005-06	1,478,223	78.4

[1] Data from local delivery plans returns

Latest data for December 2006 show that 1,477,359 people, 81.1 per cent. of people with diabetes, have been offered screening for diabetic retinopathy.

Drugs: Prisons

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many detainees began clinical drug treatment in prisons in *(a)* detoxification programmes and *(b)* extended prescribing programmes in the most recent year for which figures are available. [133340]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the year 2005-06, 53,773 prisoners entered prison detoxification and drug maintenance programmes.

This figure is an aggregation of detoxification and extended prescribing programmes. These two interventions will be reported separately from April 2007.

Note:

P Simon data can fluctuate as prison establishments finalise their entries.

Source:

P Simon database, HM Prison Service.

Eyesight: Diseases

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she made of the number of sufferers from macular degenerative disease in Hartlepool; and what steps she plans to take to provide sufferers with treatment to alleviate the condition. [133598]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of sufferers of macular degenerative disease in Hartlepool is not collected centrally.

In September 2003, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommended the use of Visudyne in photodynamic therapy for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration in some patients. All primary care trusts (PCTs) are funding this treatment in accordance with NICE's guidance.

NICE is currently appraising two new drug treatments that have been developed for treating age-related macular degeneration—Macugen and Lucentis. NICE is expected to publish guidance in September this year. We have made it quite clear to the national health service that treatment should not be withheld simply because NICE has not issued guidance. Until NICE issues final guidance NHS bodies should continue with local arrangements for introducing new technologies, based on an assessment of the available evidence.

Eyesight: Testing

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government has spent to provide free eye tests to pensioners in each year since 1997. [132909]

Ms Rosie Winterton: An estimate of national health service expenditure on sight tests for patients aged 60 and over is set out in the following table.

	NHS expenditure on sight test provision for adults aged 60+ (£ million)
1999-2000	52.2
2000-01	60.7
2001-02	66.5
2002-03	70.0
2003-04	76.3
2004-05	80.2
2005-06	84.9

Free sight tests were extended to all those aged 60 and over from 1 April 1999. Prior to that, a number of patients of pensionable age would have qualified for NHS sight tests on other grounds, such as low income or because they had been diagnosed with diabetes or glaucoma, but data collected centrally did not differentiate such groups by age.

The figures in the table are based on the number who claimed entitlement by virtue of their age. The totals are likely to include those who might otherwise have qualified for sight tests on grounds such as low income.

Expenditure on sight test provision includes expenditure on domiciliary visit fees, employers' superannuation costs, and help given to certain patients towards the cost of private sight tests.

Folic Acid

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her most recent estimate is of the take-up of folic acid in women of child bearing age in socio-economic groups C2 and DE; and if she will make a statement. [134891]

Caroline Flint: The most recent information available on folate intakes is from the 2000-01 National Diet and Nutrition Survey of adults aged 19-64 years. In this survey households in receipt of income-related state benefits can be used as a broad indicator of socio-economic group. The survey shows that mean folate intake from food sources in women of child bearing age (19-49 years) living in households in which someone was in receipt of benefits was 214 micrograms/day. When the contribution of folic acid supplements was

included mean intake in this group increased to 221 micrograms/day. This level of intake is below the recommendation for women who could become pregnant to take a 400 micrograms/folic acid supplement.

The Food Standards Agency has undertaken a survey of diet and nutrition in low income/materially deprived consumers in the United Kingdom. Results, to be published later this year, will include folate intakes.

Health Services: East Riding

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the impact on the finances of the East Riding of Yorkshire Primary Care Trust of the number of temporary residents. [132462]

Andy Burnham: Arrangements are in place to enable payment for emergency treatment for those patients who are not normally resident in the area. For English patients who are treated as emergencies, their responsible primary care trust (PCT) is invoiced for the activity directly by the national health service organisation concerned ensuring that the host PCTs are not burdened with the payment for material costs of hospital activity. This guidance also covers the payment arrangements for charge-exempt overseas visitors. This includes all those visitors who are covered under international bilateral healthcare agreements, including European Economic Area arrangements.

Health Services: Equality

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the Race Equality Impact Assessment for part II of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 (Patient and Public Involvement in Health and Social Care) was prepared. [132877]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Race Equality Impact Assessment for patient and public involvement in health and social care was published as part of the regulatory impact assessment for the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill on 11 December 2006.

Heart Diseases: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Staffordshire have been treated for heart disease in each of the last five years. [132741]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested.

However, information relating to finished consultant episodes (FCE) with a primary diagnosis of heart disease for the relevant organisations for 2001-02 to 2005-06 is shown in the following table.

National health service hospitals England

	Tamworth, Burntwood and Lichfield Primary Care Trust	*Staffordshire*	*West Midlands*
2001-02	1,829	12,411	68,596
2002-03	1,834	12,294	74,248
2003-04	1,775	12,519	74,337
2004-05	1,886	12,663	74,429
2005-06	2,069	12,855	78,540

Notes:

Finished consultant episode (FCE)

An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

Primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) data quality

PCT and SHA data were added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of Treatment and SHA of Treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of GP practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

Data quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. Whilst this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Hospital Closures: Media Interests

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1787W, on hospital closures: media interest, what methodology was used to arrive at predictions of media interest as indicated on the heat maps released by her Department on 7 November 2006. [131875]

Andy Burnham: As was stated in the earlier answer, the Department uses a range of methods to monitor media activity. The maps were produced following routine discussions with strategic health authorities (SHAs) and gave an indication of possible future local media coverage of health issues by SHA.

Hyperactivity: Medical Treatments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations her Department has received on the use of diet and brain exercise to control developmental conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. [132313]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No such representations have been received.

The Department is not aware of any satisfactory research into the effects of stimulatory exercises in the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

There is some limited evidence for the value of elimination diets that seek to exclude foods to which intolerance exists, but an elimination diet will only help a minority of children and can be difficult to apply. A study on the impact of food supplements on the incidence of aggressive behaviour among young people in custody has demonstrated positive results but further research is required and the study was not specifically focused on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Maternity Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimates she has made of the cost of *(a)* increasing medical research into preventing premature birth and *(b)* caring for babies who are born prematurely. [132259]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: None. The National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit at the University of Oxford, set up and supported by the Department, is however undertaking a study on the long-term economic costs of pre-term birth financed by an award from the charity Tommy's.

Medical Equipment: VAT

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will extend the range of reduced rate reliefs for VAT on goods and services normally intended to relieve or treat disability for the exclusive personal use of people with disabilities under the sixth EC Directive. [134429]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

There is a wide range of goods and services supplied to disabled people for their personal use on which VAT is not chargeable. This includes certain building alterations to a disabled person's home, wheelchairs and mobility scooters, and equipment designed solely for use by a disabled person.

Under the VAT agreements with our European partners, signed by successive Governments, we can retain our existing VAT zero rates, but we may not extend them or introduce new ones. It is therefore not possible to remove VAT from additional goods and services purchased for the exclusive personal use of a disabled person.

More generally, the Government are carefully considering evidence presented in the recent Low Incomes Tax Reform Group's report 'VAT and disabled people' - the changes, including new reduced rates, would be consistent with our European VAT agreements and well-targeted and cost-effective when compared with the range of support already provided for people with disabilities.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Minister of State, Department of Health, the hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 27 February 2007, on GP prescriptions and labelling by pharmacists. [134603]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* I regret the letter was not received by the Department. The hon. Member has now forwarded a copy. I will arrange for it to be dealt with urgently.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment she has made of the use by the NHS of the computerised cognitive behavioural therapies *(a)* Beating the Blues, *(b)* COPE, *(c)* Overcoming Depression, *(d)* FearFighter and *(e)* OCFighter; and whether the packages are supplied to the NHS through the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency in each case; [131866]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of referrals for computerised cognitive behavioural therapies in the NHS in the latest period for which figures are available. [131867]

Ms Rosie Winterton: These computerised cognitive behavioural therapies (cCBT) packages were reviewed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), in Technology Appraisal 097 in February 2006. NICE recommended the use of Beating the Blues in the management of mild to moderate depression and FearFighter as an option for delivering cognitive behavioural therapy in managing panic and phobia.

NICE decided that there was insufficient evidence for it to recommend the use of COPE and Overcoming Depression as clinically or cost-effective options for managing depression, except as part of ongoing or new clinical trials that are designed to generate robust, relevant data on the clinical effectiveness of these specific cCBT packages.

OCFighter (previously known as BTSteps) was not recommended for delivering cognitive behavioural therapy in managing obsessive compulsive disorder. Where people are currently using OCFighter, whether as routine therapy or as part of a clinical trial, they should be allowed to choose to continue this therapy until the patient, general practitioner and/or specialist, consider it appropriate to stop. NICE will consider reviewing this guidance in September 2008.

We have worked with suppliers and the National Health Service Purchasing and Supplies Agency in negotiating a framework agreement and tariff to ensure that the NHS can provide Beating the Blues and FearFighter in a cost effective and value for money way.

Information on the number of referrals made for cCBT is not collected centrally. However, as part of the implementation guidance which we launched on 28 March, a demand estimate tool has been developed which helps commissioners to establish the likely

demand for cCBT in their local areas. This calculates the number of people who are likely to have mental heath conditions which will respond to cCBT, like depression or phobias and also estimates the number who might want to use this technology.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of the delivery of mental health in-patient and day care in the NHS. [133627]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since the publication of the "National Service Framework for Mental Health" in 1999, mental health services in England have seen significant improvements, particularly in access to specialist community-based services that aim to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions and the length of in-patient stays. However, in-patient services remain a key element of mental health service provision and a national acute in-patient mental health programme, which is hosted by the Care Services Improvement Partnership and supported by its regional infrastructure, is helping local services in implementing the Department's policy implementation guidance published in 2002. The Department has also announced that over 2006-07 and 2007-08, £130 million of extra capital investment would be targeted to upgrade the mental health estate, particularly in improving psychiatric intensive care units and places of safety for assessment under the Mental Health Act 1983 and enhancing the sexual safety of women.

In recognition of the important role they play in promoting and facilitating social inclusion, the Department published a good practice guidance on commissioning of day services in 2006. The aim of this guidance is to improve access to mainstream opportunities for people with mental health problems in closer partnership with other agencies and organisations including the voluntary and community sector. The national social inclusion programme, also hosted by the Care Services Improvement Partnership and supported by its regional infrastructure, is helping local services in implementing this guidance in line with their assessment of local need.

Mental Health Services: Acute Beds

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute mental health beds there were in the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [134156]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 804-05W.

Mental Health Services: Sexual Offences

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of in-patients accessing mental health services who made allegations of rape or sexual assault *(a)* were offered and *(b)* received specialist counselling in the latest period for which figures are available. [132530]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not centrally available.

Mentally Ill: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in each London borough were diagnosed as having a mental health disorder in each of the last 10 years. [132920]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Mentally Ill: Young People

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females between the ages of 16 and 25 were diagnosed with a mental illness in England in each of the last five years. [132861]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Midwives: Recruitment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were *(a)* trained and *(b)* recruited in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [133139]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the number of students who entered training to be a midwife in each of the last three years. The Department does not collect centrally information on how many of these found employment as a midwife.

On 3 April 2007, the Department published "Maternity matters: choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service" highlighting the Government's commitment to developing and enhancing national health service maternity services and the role of the work force, including midwives, in improving maternity services.

Pre-registration midwifery training commissions

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Degree	783	895	1,042
Diploma	716	744	517
Other	757	735	661
Total	2,226	2,374	2,220

Source:
Quarterly Monitoring Returns

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost of delivering an equivalent episode of care was in *(a)* 1979, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* the most recent period for which figures are available, at constant prices. [131930]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not available.

NHS: Foreign Workers

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-EU nationals were employed in the NHS in each of the last five years. [132862]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Private Sector

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her policy is on providing an independent sector treatment centre for North Essex; and if she will make a statement. [133375]

Andy Burnham: The Department is working with the East of England strategic health authority to deliver independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) services in Essex. It is currently anticipated that there will be three ISTCs in the region located in Braintree, Basildon and Southend.

The aims of the Department's ISTC programme are to:

- help provide capacity to deliver swift access to treatment for national health service patients;
- support the implementation of patient choice;
- stimulate innovative models of service delivery and drive up productivity; and
- introduce contestability between providers of healthcare services for NHS patients.

Pregnant Women: Depression

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support is provided by the national health service to pregnant women who are suffering depression during pregnancy; what research has been *(a)* funded and *(b)* carried out by her Department on whether there is a link between depression in pregnant women and (i) premature births, (ii) infant death and (iii) severe childhood illness; when her Department last undertook an evidence review on the issue that drew on (A) UK and (B) international research; and if she will make a statement. [132651]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Women who experience mental health problems during or after pregnancy can access the full range of mental health services available in primary and secondary care. The Department has issued guidance, "Mainstreaming gender and women's mental health: implementation guidance" (DH, 2003), that highlights the need for effective perinatal psychiatric care, specifically the need to develop local care pathways, maternity and psychiatry protocols, access to perinatal psychiatric assessment and adequate mother and baby unit provision based on assessment of local need. Care services improvement partnerships' national programme on gender equality and women's mental health is helping local services to implement the recommendations of this guidance. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) also made recommendations in its recent guidance, "Antenatal and postnatal mental health" (NICE, 2007) to improve services for women who experience mental health problems during or after pregnancy.

The Department has not funded any such research. However, the Medical Research Council (MRC), which is one of the main agencies through which the United Kingdom Government supports medical and clinical research, has recently funded a study entitled "Comparison of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis in depressed and healthy pregnant women". The study was led by Dr. Veronica Keane at the Institute of Psychiatry and received MRC funding of £157,700. It was completed in 2006.

The study found results suggesting that depressed women had higher cortisol stress hormones, particularly a hormone produced by the placenta during pregnancy (corticotropin releasing-hormone) and that this was associated with earlier delivery of babies in the depressed women. The applicants intend to submit follow up studies to the MRC.

The Government do not routinely and systematically compare the research they fund in different disease areas with equivalent research in other countries.

Resource Allocation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2219W, on resource allocation, for what reasons she excludes any measure of ill health in those aged 75 and over in her measure of the burden of disease. [127923]

Andy Burnham: The definition of burden of disease used for the previous reply is one of a number of possible definitions. It includes one element, diabetes prevalence, which is not age related, and therefore does include persons aged 75 and over. The other three measures are premature mortality rates for major killer diseases. They reflect the current public service agreement targets to reduce cancer and circulatory disease death rates in people aged under 75 by 2010. It is in the under 75 age group where the earliest signs of progress are likely to be seen, although the health interventions to reduce mortality in this age group will also have a beneficial effect on people aged 75 and over.

Smoking: Public Places

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to inform owners of restaurants, hotels and pubs of the smoking ban coming into place on 1 July. [134391]

Caroline Flint: Through the Smokefree England campaign, the Department is delivering a major communications campaign to support businesses to be prepared for the implementation of smokefree legislation on 1 July 2007. Recent surveys by the Department show extremely high levels of awareness among the hospitality industry and customers.

Information on the new law is available from the freephone Smokefree England information line on 0800 169 169 7 and on the Smokefree England website at:

www.smokefreeengland.co.uk

The website has received nearly 250,000 visits to date.

The Department has developed a range of guides on the new law. A guidance pack, including a guide, no-smoking signs and other support materials is being sent to all businesses in England that employ staff during April. Guidance documents can be downloaded

from the Smokefree England website, and will be available in a range of different languages and formats, including a downloadable MP3 audio version.

A Ministerial Reference Group comprised of key stakeholders was created last year to facilitate dialogue between business groups including representatives from the hospitality industry, local government and the Department, and has met regularly. The Department also continues to work closely with organisations that represent the hospitality industry to increase awareness of the new legislation among their constituents.

Local councils are also working to build compliance in their communities. Local businesses are advised to contact their local council for advice and support in implementing smokefree legislation.

TREASURY

11 Downing Street: Costs

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the costs of running No. 11 Downing street were in 2005-06. [104602]

John Healey: By long-standing arrangement, the Treasury pays a contribution to the Cabinet Office for the rent and service charge of the space used by HM Treasury and by the Chancellor of the Exchequer within the Downing street estate, including the No. 11 state rooms and offices and the No. 10 residence. This comprises 14.4 per cent. of the total estate. For 2005-06, this contribution totalled £318,338.

Bank Services: Fees and Charges

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints the Financial Ombudsman Service received on bank charges in each of the last five years. [134020]

Ed Balls: The Financial Services Ombudsman (FOS) is operationally independent of the Government. I understand that over the past five years the FOS has collated data on the basis of current account complaints, not specific complaints on bank charges. The number of complaints relating to current accounts to year-end March was:

	Number of complaints
2006	3,543
2005	2,521
2004	2,106
2003	1,602
2002	1,280

Data on inquiries relating specifically to bank charges were collated from September 2006. The number of inquires received relating to bank charges from September 2006 to March 2007 was 150,917.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been taken to reduce the charges to customers of high street banks. [134021]

Ed Balls: The Office of Fair Trading, which is an independent body, is currently carrying out an inquiry into these charges under the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations (1999). It would not be appropriate for Government to comment.

Child Benefit: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland are eligible for child benefit; and how many are lone parents in each case. [134767]

Mr. Timms: Figures showing the number of families receiving child benefit (CB), at regional and parliamentary constituency level for the UK are published on the HMRC website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/geographical.htm

Figures showing the number of families eligible to claim CB are not available at these levels of geography.

Whether or not a CB recipient is currently a single parent or part of a couple is not recorded on the CB system as after 5 July 1998 it did not affect the level of award.

Child Trust Fund: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of children in *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland and *(b)* the Tees Valley have received a Child Trust Fund account since 1 September 2002. [134655]

Ed Balls: All children born on or after 1 September 2002 are eligible for the Child Trust Fund as long as they are in receipt of child benefit, live in the UK and they are not subject to any immigration restrictions. Special arrangements are in place for looked-after children. All eligible children will receive a Child Trust Fund account whether opened by parents or the Government on their behalf.

Constituency and regional data on Child Trust Fund accounts were published on 11 January 2007 and can be viewed on the HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

Crossrail Line: Finance

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to take a final decision on the funding of Crossrail. [134400]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 625W.

Deborah Mattinson

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role Deborah Mattinson played in arranging his recent speeches to *(a)* the Equal Opportunities Commission and *(b)* the Green Alliance. [129772]

John Healey *[holding answer 23 March 2007]*: The Chancellor's speeches were organised by the Treasury. The events themselves were organized by the EOC and Green Alliance.

Debts

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures he introduced in the 2007 Budget to reduce public debt. [134553]

John Healey: The Budget forecast for public sector net debt incorporates the impact of all the Budget measures. Public sector net debt is projected to be low and stable over the projection period, stabilising below 39 per cent. below the 40 per cent. ceiling set out in the sustainable investment rule.

Departmental Trips: Eurostar

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many trips by Eurostar have been undertaken by staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [105589]

John Healey: Information on the number of Eurostar train tickets purchased is normally not held, because the Treasury's accounting system records the costs of travel but not the number or type of tickets bought. However, for financial year 2005-06, the Treasury's travel management company had provided information on the number of tickets purchased through them.

The number of Eurostar train tickets bought through the travel management company in 2005-06 was 2,750 costing £463,455. Tickets bought but subsequently refunded are excluded; round trips by train are counted as two tickets; tickets bought and subsequently exchanged for another journey are counted as one ticket.

Some tickets are bought directly by the traveller, so this information is not a complete record of all travel tickets bought by the Treasury.

Departments: Buildings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many buildings are owned by his Department; and how each is grade listed. [134560]

John Healey: The Treasury owns one building, 1 Horse Guards Road, which is subject to a private finance initiative contract. Details of the contract can be found in HM Treasury's 2005-06 Resource Account HC 1344. The building is grade II* listed.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Meale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on external consultants in the 2006-07 financial year. [123842]

John Healey: For the purposes of this answer, this question is taken to refer to all contracted out professional services and professional staff substitution. In the first 10 months of 2006-07, the Treasury spent £4.93 million on these services. This includes fees paid to Partnerships UK for their work providing project and policy support to the Treasury and other public bodies on the development, procurement and implementation of public private partnerships.

Departments: Electricity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on electricity consumption in 2006-07. [133297]

John Healey: The total spent on electricity consumption in 2006-07 by HM Treasury was approximately £450,000.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total cost has been of appealing against Freedom of Information Act requests submitted to HM Treasury since 1 January 2005, including appeals to the Information Commissioner, broken down by *(a)* internal costs and *(b)* external legal costs; [133200]

(2) what the *(a)* date, *(b)* value and *(c)* recipient was of each payment for external legal advice, support or representation in response to the Freedom of Information Act request by *The Times* newspaper that was released on 30 March 2007; [133201]

(3) what estimate he has made of the total amount of staff time spent on the Freedom of Information Act request by *The Times* newspaper that was released on 30 March 2007, broken down into time spent on *(a)* internal reviews, *(b)* contesting the application with the Information Commissioner and *(c)* appealing against the Information Commissioner's rulings; [133202]

(4) what estimate he has made of the total cost to the public purse of opposing the Freedom of Information Act request by *The Times* newspaper that was released on 30 March 2007, broken down into costs associated with *(a)* internal reviews, *(b)* contesting the application with the Information Commissioner and *(c)* appealing against the Information Commissioner's rulings. [133203]

John Healey *[holding answer 23 April 2007]*: The cost of legal counsel in all Treasury cases taken to the Information Commissioner and the Information Tribunal to date is £3,715, of which £2,399 was due to the case referred to. Information on staff time spent on individual cases is not held centrally.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 982W on Departments: official hospitality, what definition the Department uses of casual drinks. [134447]

John Healey: The definition of casual drinks used by the Treasury in determining eligibility for official hospitality is drinks taken without food.

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 982W on Departments: official hospitality, at what functions with external guests present other than lunch or dinner the Department has *(a)* spent hospitality funds and *(b)* provided alcohol. [134448]

John Healey: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Poverty

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to lift children and families from below the poverty line. [134573]

Mr. Timms: The Treasury contributes to the strategy for halving and eradicating child poverty as set out in the Child Poverty Review, published alongside the 2004 Spending Review White Paper (Cm 6237). Across the UK, these measures have helped lift 600,000 children out of poverty since 1998-99.

Budget 2007 announced a package of further reforms to the tax and benefit system that will:

benefit families by an average of £200 per year;

benefit families in the poorest fifth of the population by an average of £350 per year; and

lift 200,000 children out of poverty.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [135004]

John Healey: All the energy purchased by the Treasury is purchased from renewable sources. In 2006-07, the Treasury purchased 7,089,501 kwh of electricity from renewable sources.

Departments: Stationary

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on *(a)* branded and *(b)* non-branded stationery in 2006-07. [133436]

John Healey: The Treasury's accounting systems do not differentiate between branded and non-branded stationery. The total spent by HM Treasury on stationery supplies in 2006-07 was £289,000.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many written parliamentary questions his Department took longer than 10 days to answer in 2006-07. [133442]

John Healey: 10 days has no particular significance in relation to the answering of parliamentary questions. As any period of 10 days will include at least one weekend and may also include other days on which the House of Commons may not be sitting and questions cannot be answered, it is a meaningless yardstick against which to measure performance in answering questions. In 2006-07, questions tabled shortly before the Christmas, February and Easter recesses did not fall for answer until after the 10-day point.

In the present session, 80.4 per cent. of the written questions to the Treasury have been answered within the timescales set by the House—that is to say, on the nominated day in the case of named day questions and within a working week of tabling for ordinary questions.

Drugs: Death

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many drug-related deaths were recorded in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each year since 1997. [134654]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 1 May 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many drug-related deaths were recorded in (a) Suffolk, (b) Bedfordshire (c) Cambridgeshire, (d) Essex, (e) Hertfordshire and (f) Norfolk in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (134654)

Available figures relate to the number of deaths from poisoning with any drug or medicine or certified as drug abuse or dependence. They do not include deaths which may be indirectly related to drug use, such as blood-borne viral infections or transport accidents. The most recent year for which figures are now available is 2005. The table below shows the number of deaths for which the underlying cause was drug-related poisoning, by selected county for the years 1997 to 2005.

ONS recently revised statistics on drug poisoning deaths to include all deaths registered in the calendar year,* instead of deaths occurring in the year. This takes account of late registrations which would otherwise be excluded.

* Office for National Statistics (2007) Deaths related to drug poisoning: England and Wales, 1993-2005. Health Statistics Quarterly 33. S2-S8.

Number of deaths from drug-related poisoning,[1] by selected county,[2] 1997 to 2005[3]

	(a) Suffolk	*(b) Bedfordshire*	*(c) Cambridgeshire*	*(d) Essex*	*(e) Hertfordshire*	*(f) Norfolk*
1997	44	15	19	53	49	50
1998	30	18	28	42	35	59
1999	33	14	22	56	48	61
2000	24	17	28	50	38	51
2001	32	19	23	56	43	57
2002	28	21	28	29	46	48
2003	35	12	23	45	57	34

Number of deaths from drug-related poisoning[1] by selected county,[2] 1997 to 2005[3]

	(a) Suffolk	(b) Bedfordshire	(c) Cambridgeshire	(d) Essex	(e) Hertfordshire	(f) Norfolk
2004	29	20	29	32	30	49
2005	25	18	26	47	43	60

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 292, 304, 305.2-305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E962.0 and E980.0-E980.5 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y34from 2001 onwards.
[2] Usual residents of the county.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Economic Situation

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his forecasts are for non-oil gross value added growth in each year to 2012; and what the (*a*) lowest and (*b*) highest projections are to a (i) 0.5 per cent., (ii) 1 per cent., (iii) 2 per cent., (iv) 5 per cent., (v) 10 per cent., (vi) 25 per cent. and (vii) 50 per cent. level of statistical significance. [134132]

John Healey: HM Treasury sets out its economic forecasts twice a year in Budget and pre-Budget reports. The Treasury does not publish frequency distributions around its forecasts. However, it does provide average absolute errors over the past 10 years. These are shown in Table B10 of "Chapter B: The economy" of Budget 2007 (HC 342) for spring forecasts, and Table A10 of "Annex A: The economy" of the 2006 Pre-Budget Report (Cm 6984) for autumn forecasts.

Economics: Teaching Aids

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on Welsh language versions of his Department's Red Box (*a*) website and (*b*) teaching packs in each year since 2002. [133430]

John Healey: Expenditure on Welsh language versions of the Red Box was as follows:

	£
(a) Website	
2002	8,000
2007	8,000
(b) Teaching packs	
2002	7,735
2005	8,900

No expenditure was incurred in other years.

Employment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the size of the (*a*) working age and (*b*) economically active population in each of the last 30 years, broken down by gender. [134616]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 1 May 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the working age population and the economically active population over the last thirty years. I am replying in her absence. (134616)

The attached table gives the working age population by gender from 1978 to 2005 which are based on mid-year population estimates. Mid-2005 population estimates are the latest available. The table also shows the numbers and rates of economically active people of working age by gender for the three months ending February of each year. The ONS uses the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to measure economic activity and this data is seasonally adjusted. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The LFS publishes numbers of economic activity each month in the Labour Market First Release, in summary table 1. The latest Release can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=8292

Working age population[1] and economic activity by gender 1978 to 2007, United Kingdom

Thousand and percentage

	Working age population[1] Mid year estimates (Thousand)			Economically active[2] (Thousand)			Economic activity rates[3] (Percentage)		
	All persons	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women	All persons	Men	Women
1978	33,172	17,311	15,861	25,542	15,686	9,856	78.4	92.5	63.2
1979	33,436	17,423	16,013	25,713	15,669	10,045	78.3	91.8	63.7
1980	33,607	17,539	16,068	25,923	15,676	10,247	78.4	91.2	64.5
1981	33,780	17,646	16,134	26,157	15,809	10,347	78.6	91.3	64.8
1982	33,916	17,735	16,181	26,067	15,715	10,353	77.9	90.2	64.6
1983	34,160	17,891	16,269	25,857	15,575	10,282	76.9	88.7	63.9
1984	34,416	18,051	16,365	26,477	15,709	10,768	78.1	88.7	66.5
1985	34,586	18,105	16,481	26,896	15,837	11,059	78.8	88.9	67.9
1986	34,725	18,142	16,583	27,063	15,793	11,269	78.9	88.4	68.7
1987	34,877	18,194	16,683	27,302	15,795	11,507	79.3	88.1	69.7
1988	34,983	18,232	16,751	27,633	15,925	11,708	79.9	88.6	70.5
1989	35,079	18,268	16,811	27,886	15,974	11,912	80.4	88.7	71.5

Working age population[1] and economic activity by gender 1978 to 2007, United Kingdom

Thousand and percentage

	Working age population[2] Mid year estimates (Thousand)			*Economically active[3] (Thousand)*			*Economic activity rates[4] (Percentage)*		
	All persons	*Men*	*Women*	*All persons*	*Men*	*Women*	*All persons*	*Men*	*Women*
1990	35,147	18,300	16,847	28,049	16,032	12,016	80.7	88.8	71.9
1991	35,197	18,303	16,894	28,007	15,953	12,049	80.4	88.2	71.9
1992	35,206	18,288	16,918	27,636	15,730	11,906	79.2	87.0	70.9
1993	35,208	18,270	16,938	27,505	15,580	11,925	78.8	86.2	70.9
1994	35,256	18,267	16,989	27,405	15,456	11,949	78.5	85.6	70.9
1995	35,366	18,317	17,049	27,312	15,357	11,956	78.1	84.9	70.7
1996	35,498	18,375	17,123	27,533	15,411	12,123	78.4	85.0	71.4
1997	35,624	18,428	17,196	27,651	15,394	12,257	78.5	84.7	71.9
1998	35,746	18,486	17,260	27,683	15,394	12,289	78.3	84.4	71.8
1999	35,928	18,582	17,346	28,005	15,503	12,502	78.8	84.7	72.7
2000	36,138	18,685	17,453	28,141	15,538	12,603	78.8	84.4	72.8
2001	36,406	18,827	17,579	28,312	15,631	12,681	78.8	84.3	72.8
2002	36,622	18,945	17,677	28,407	15,658	12,749	78.5	83.9	72.7
2003	36,828	19,068	17,760	28,606	15,750	12,856	78.6	83.9	73.0
2004	37,064	19,210	17,854	28,821	15,843	12,978	78.7	83.8	73.3
2005	37,368	19,390	17,978	29,069	15,950	13,119	78.8	83.7	73.6
2006	[5]	[5]	[5]	29,022	15,952	13,071	78.6	83.6	73.3
2007	[5]	[5]	[5]	28,995	15,936	13,059	78.5	83.5	73.2

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women age 16 to 59.
[2] Mid-year population estimates. It should be noted that 2005 are the latest available population estimates.
[3] December-February LFS seasonally adjusted estimate.
[4] Economically active as a percentage of all persons of working age. Economic activity rates are based on LFS household population estimates, not mid-year population estimates.
[5] Estimates not available.

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Mid-year population estimates

Excise Duty: Alcoholic Drinks

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons were for the recent change in the rate of duty on *(a)* beer and *(b)* wine. [134570]

John Healey: Duty on beer and wine was increased in line with inflation at the Budget to maintain revenue levels and support the Government's spending priorities.

Four Wheeled-drive Cars

Jane Kennedy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will visit the Halewood site of the production of the Land Rover Freelander 2 to discuss with managers and trade union representatives the impact of green taxes on the production of high-performance and four wheeled-drive motor cars with managers and trade union representatives. [129847]

John Healey: The Chancellor and I meet with representatives of the vehicle manufacturing industry and trade unions on a regular basis, on a range of issues of common interest. We will happily continue to meet representatives of the motor industries to discuss these issues.

Gambling: Taxation

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total receipts from betting and gaming duties were in 2002-06; and what his Department's forecasts are for total gaming duty receipts in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [133997]

(2) what his Department's forecasts are for total remote gaming duty receipts in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [133998]

(3) what proportion of forecast total gaming duty receipts are expected to be accounted for by remote gaming duty in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [133999]

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the effect on Exchequer revenues of the introduction of a remote gaming duty of 15 per cent., broken down by *(a)* internet, *(b)* telephone and *(c)* interactive television gambling; and if he will make a statement. [134170]

John Healey: Revenues from gambling taxes are published in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting, Gaming and Lottery Duties Bulletin, available at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbett

Revenue estimates of the Budget changes to gambling taxation were published in the 2007 Financial Statement and Budget Report.

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the tax burden on *(a)* bookmakers, *(b)* bingo clubs and *(c)* casinos; and what his policy is on the harmonisation of gaming tax across different forms of gaming. [134484]

John Healey: Revenues from gambling taxes are published in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting, Gaming and Lottery Duties Bulletin, available at http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbett. Bookmakers, bingo clubs and casinos are also subject to the usual taxes imposed on business.

The Government take all relevant factors into consideration when establishing and maintaining fair regimes for the gambling taxes.

Gift Aid

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 983-84W, on Gift Aid, (1) whether the predicted increase of £0.4 billion in Gift Aid in 2007-08 takes into account the reduction of two per cent. in the basic rate income tax; and if he will make a statement; [134699]

(2) what the evidential basis was for the assumption that Gift Aid would increase by 5.6 per cent. in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [134700]

Mr. Timms: The figures provided relate to the year 2007-08. The change to the basic rate of income tax announced in the Budget, takes effect from 2008-09.

The estimate of 5.6 per cent. increase for 2007-08 is informed by the Treasury's latest projections for average earnings growth and employment growth, which are consistent with the assumptions for trend output growth published in chapter B of Budget 2007.

As announced by the Chancellor in his recent Budget speech, the Government will consult with the charitable sector on measures to increase take-up of gift aid.

Government Services

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average *(a)* lifetime incomes, *(b)* lifetime tax revenues and *(c)* lifetime consumption of Government services of (i) men and (ii) women born in (A) 2000, (B) 1990 and (C) 1980. [134617]

John Healey: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* tax revenues paid by, *(b)* income and *(c)* consumption of Government services, broken down by type, of (i) a representative man and (ii) a representative woman born in (A) 2000, (B) 1990 and (C) 1980, with reference to the assumptions outlined in Chapter 4 of Long Term Public Finance Report 2006. [134618]

John Healey: The spending and revenue projections given in the long-term public finance report are purely forward looking. The report does not include the type of historical analysis of lifetime tax revenues, income or consumption of government services that would be required to make the estimations outlined in the question.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the level of private spending on health care in each year since 1997 *(a)* in cash terms, *(b)* in real terms and *(c)* as a proportion of gross domestic product. [133994]

Mr. Timms: The Office for National Statistics provides information on health spending, including private spending on health care up until 2002, on its website (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/healthaccounts/experimental.asp). The ONS series on private health spending is now discontinued.

Internal Treasury estimates for later years, based on a number of assumptions for discontinued data series, are in the following table.

	Percentage
2003-04	1.3
2004-05	1.3
2005-06	1.3
2006-07	1.2
2007-08	1.2

HM Revenue and Customs: Contracts

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the contractors used by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in the last 12 months operated via *(a)* a personal service company and *(b)* a managed serviced company; and how much was paid by HMRC in fees to such companies in that period. [133973]

John Healey: This information is not available.

HM Revenue and Customs: Wales

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he expects to make in efficiency savings from changes to the HM Revenue and Customs Service in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [133718]

John Healey *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* HMRC is structured around customers and business functions rather than geographically. Each of HMRC's business directorates is required to contribute to HMRC's overall efficiency savings across the spending review 2004 period, but the requirement is not defined by geographical region.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he expects to pay in redundancy payments to staff who lose their jobs through HM Revenue and Customs efficiency savings cuts in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [133719]

John Healey *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* HMRC is on track to achieve its 2004 spending review efficiency targets, including net staffing reductions of 12,500 full-time equivalent posts, by April 2008 without recourse to redundancy. HMRC has a no redundancy agreement with the trade unions lasting until at least September 2007. Its aim is to avoid future redundancies if at all possible, principally by continuing to restrict recruitment and to offer approved early retirement schemes.

Housing: Pollution Control

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral answer by the Chief

Secretary to the Treasury of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 662, on zero-carbon homes, if he will quantify the number of zero-carbon homes in the UK. [134665]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer the Economic Secretary to the Treasury gave to the hon. Member for Cambridge (David Howarth) on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1511W.

Income Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 985-6W, on income tax: tax rates and bands, how the figures quoted for the cost of changes in the rate of income tax relate to those on line 22 of table A1, page 208 of the Budget 2007; and whether the same assumptions have been used. [134661]

Ed Balls: The answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 985-6W, on income tax: tax rates and bands were provided on an accruals basis as stated in the reply. The figures quoted for the cost of changes in the rate of income tax shown on line 22 of table A1, page 208 of the Budget 2007 are based on the same assumptions but have been converted on to a national accounts basis. Paragraph A2.8 of the Financial Statement and Budget Report explains how accruals basis figures are converted on to a national accounts basis.

Income Tax: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland paid the basic rate of income tax in the 2006-07 tax year. [134766]

Ed Balls: The latest estimates for the number of individual income taxpayers by country and region can be found in table 2.2 "Number of individual income taxpayers by country and region" on HM Revenue and Customs website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income tax/menu.htm

Information on the number of basic rate taxpayers at constituency level is unavailable. Available estimates for the number of individual income taxpayers by constituency be found in table 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" on HM Revenue and Customs website.

http:/www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315.

The information is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2004-05 is the latest available, and projected in line with Budget 2007 assumptions.

Sample sizes at constituency level are small and estimates can demonstrate a large variability from year to year, therefore any inference from the information in the table for 2004-05 should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.15a "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency, Confidence Intervals".

Income Tax: Overpayments

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people claimed overpayments in their income tax payments in each year since 1997; and how many of these claims were successful. [134310]

Ed Balls: The total number of repayments made by HM Revenue and Customs in each financial year since 2001-2002 (the data are not held for earlier years) is as follows (this may include more than one repayment to an individual within the same financial year).

	Number
2001-02	6,005,339
2002-03	6,451,203
2003-04	6,594,199
2004-05	6,812,662
2005-06	6,310,385
2006-07	5,926,786

HM Revenue and Customs does not hold information on the number of people who have claimed overpayments.

Inflation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps he plans to take in response to recent trends in the rate of inflation; [134567]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effects of recent trends in the rate of inflation on the British economy. [134574]

John Healey: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England has operational responsibility for the conduct of monetary policy. Under the Chancellor's remit for the MPC, the operational target for monetary policy is an underlying inflation rate (measured by the 12-month increase in the CPI) of 2 per cent. The remit was last confirmed on 21 March 2007.

The Treasury's latest assessment of the economy was published in Budget 2007 (HC 342). Since then, Consumer Price Inflation turned out at 3.1 per cent. in March, This prompted an open letter from the Governor of the Bank of England and a reply from the Chancellor which further discussed recent developments and prospects for inflation.

For its part, the Government will continue to be vigilant and disciplined in the fight against inflation. To that end, the Chancellor announced to Parliament on 1 March 2007 overall headline settlements for public sector workforces covered by Pay Review Bodies are to be less than the 2 per cent. inflation target in 2007-08.

Managed Service Companies

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will publish the research which led his Department to conclude, in "Tackling Managed Service Companies" of December 2006, that there are 240,000 workers employed by managed service companies; [134758]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the research that led him to conclude in the Red Book 2007 that the measures on managed services companies set out in Schedule 3 of the Finance Bill 2007 will yield £350 million to the Exchequer in 2007-08, £450 million in 2008-09 and £250 million in 2009-10. [134759]

John Healey: The Government set out their analysis of the problem of workers operating through Managed Service Companies in the consultation document "Tackling Managed Service Companies". This was published at the 2006 pre-Budget report. Evidence was gathered from a wide range of businesses and other interested parties during the consultation process. This evidence was incorporated into the regulatory impact assessment published alongside the Finance Bill and set out in "Tackling Managed Companies: summary of consultation responses".

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to respond to the hon. Member for Billericay's letter dated 5 March on Northlands Park Surestart. [133760]

John Healey *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* The correspondence was transferred to the Department for Education and Skills on 16 March and the hon. Member was notified by letter on that date.

National Income: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross domestic product was per head of the resident population in Darlington in each year since 1992. [135015]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 1 May 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question about Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita for the resident population of Darlington in each year since 1992. I am replying in her absence. (135015)

The Office for National Statistics publishes regional Gross Value Added (GVA) rather than regional GDP. GVA is the same as GDP except for excluding taxes and subsidies on products. Estimates of GVA for Darlington on a consistent basis are only available for the period 1995 to 2004. These data are shown in table 1.

Prior to 1995 regional estimates of GDP were produced on a different accounting basis using different methodology and cannot be used to produce a consistent time series with the later data. GDP on this basis only exists for Darlington for the years 1993 and 1994 and these data are shown in table 2.

Both data-sets are at current prices, therefore the effects of inflation are not taken into account.

Table 1: GVA per head for Darlington 1995-2004

	GVA per head
1995	11,033
1996	11,388
1997	11,837
1998	12,120
1999	12,689
2000	13,270
2001	14,246
2002	14,855
2003	15,605
2004	16,361

Table 2: GDP per head for Darlington 1993-94

	GDP per head
1993	9,137
1994	9,667

Pension Credit: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the proposed increase in the pension credit guarantee to £130 by 2010 will be financed. [134566]

Ed Balls: The figure of £130 is an estimate of the rate of the pension credit guarantee informed by the Treasury's latest projections for average earnings growth, which are consistent with the assumptions for trend output growth published in chapter B of the 2007 FSBR. The precise rate will be set in the usual way in due course by the annual uprating order, which is subject to affirmative resolution with debates in both Houses. The White Paper, "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system" (May 2006) set out the Government's intention to uprate the pension credit guarantee in line with earnings over the long-term and factored this in to the overall projected costs of state pension reform. The Government's spending commitments will be financed in line with the fiscal rules.

Pension Funds

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total assets of UK pension funds were in each of the last 30 years in *(a)* cash terms and *(b)* real terms at today's prices; [134081]

(2) what the annual income of pension funds was in each of the last 30 years; and if he will make a statement. [134082]

Ed Balls: The Office for National Statistics' survey of self-administered pension funds collects information on incomes, investment flows by and holdings of self-administered pension funds. The data are published by the ONS in its "Investment by insurance companies, pension funds and trusts (MQ5)", available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk

Pensions: Compensation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the percentage of mis-sold pensions which have been the subject of completed compensatory procedures over the last 20 years; and if he will make a statement. [134080]

Ed Balls: This information is not held centrally. The Financial Ombudsman Service publishes figures on the number of cases it deals with each year. In addition,

figures issued by the Financial Services Authority show that 1.7 million people have had their cases reviewed in a programme of reviews by authorised firms of personal pensions sold between April 1988 and June 1994.

Pensions: Gurkhas

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect of proposals in the 2007 Budget on the pensions of *(a)* serving and *(b)* retired Gurkhas; and if he will make a statement. [134490]

Ed Balls: Budget 2007 announced a rebalancing of taxation on to polluting activities, and tackling avoidance. This has allowed the Government to simplify the tax system for all and to offer more support for work, families and pensioners.

The overall effect on Gurkhas resident in the UK will be dependant on the interactions between the different elements of all the reforms contained in the Budget, and the household circumstances of each individual.

Personal Savings

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many people in *(a)* the north east and *(b)* Middlesbrough south and east Cleveland have individual savings accounts. [134868]

Ed Balls: Latest estimates of the number of people in the north-east holding an ISA are provided in Table 9.12 (Market value of ISA funds: By country and region) on Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/isa/table9_12.htm

Estimates are not available below Government Office Region level.

Population

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people came to live in the UK in the last 10 years; and how many people have emigrated in that period. [133221]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 1 May 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question concerning how many people have come to live in the UK in the last decade; and how many people have emigrated in that period. I am replying in her absence. (133221)

The Office for National Statistics uses the UN definition of an international migrant as someone who changes their country of usual residence for at least a year so that the country of destination effectively becomes the country of usual residence.

Total International Migration (TIM) estimates show that for the most recent 10 year period for which data are available (1996-2005), a total of 4,624,000 people migrated to the UK for a year or more and a total of 3,174,000 people emigrated.

Premium Bonds

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value is of premium bond prize money awarded following the death of the holder held by HM Treasury in non-interest bearing accounts. [134246]

Ed Balls: NS&I only become aware of the death of a customer if they are notified of it as part of the settlement of the estate of the deceased. Where this happens, the normal practice is for the value of the bonds and any unpaid prizes to be repaid as part of the settlement process. For the remaining unpaid prizes, NS&I are unable to distinguish between money which is unclaimed due to a death of which they have not been notified, and that which is unclaimed for other reasons.

In general terms, however, any premium bond prizes which are unclaimed following three months of the draw are classified as "unpaid" and are held by NS&I for a further 21 months (making a total of two years) on a non-interest bearing basis. NS and I currently hold £5,954,984 on this basis, if the prize is still unclaimed two years after the draw it is transferred to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt (CRND).

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the total value was of premium bond prizes won following the death of the holder *(a)* in each of the last three years for which figures are available and *(b)* in total over the last 30 years. [134247]

Ed Balls: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of premium bond prizes is that were awarded following the death of the bond holder and which were transferred to the National Loans Office in circumstances in which he was authorised to make use of the funds in the last *(a)* five years, *(b)* 10 years and *(c)* 30 years. [134248]

Ed Balls: NS&I only become aware of the death of a customer if they are notified of it as part of the settlement of the estate of the deceased. Where this happens, the normal practice is for the value of the bonds and any unpaid prizes to be repaid as part of the settlement process. For the remaining unpaid prizes, NS&I are unable to distinguish between money that is unclaimed due to a death of which they have not been notified, and that which is unclaimed for other reasons. It is therefore impossible to give an accurate answer to this question.

In general terms, however, any premium bond prizes which are unclaimed following three months of the draw are classified as "unpaid" and are held by NS&I for a further 21 months (making a total of two years) on a non-interest bearing basis. If the prize is still unclaimed two years after the draw it is transferred to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt (CRND—formerly part of the National Investment and Loans Office).

The values for the five, 10 and 30 years periods requested are:

	£
Transferred in last 5 years:	5,726,400
Transferred in last 10 years:	13,764,586
Transferred in last 30 years:	25,947,211

Private Finance Initiative: Tax Avoidance

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will bring forward proposals for legislation under which companies bidding for private finance initiative contracts would be required to state publicly that they are not using tax havens to avoid UK taxes; [133554]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals for legislation under which companies avoiding UK taxes would not be eligible for private finance initiative contracts. [133555]

John Healey: The Government have no plans to change current procurement procedures. In developing PFI contracts, Departments are required to apply Treasury guidance set out in the letter of 22 May 2003 to Departments (DAO/Gen 03), which is on the Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/1EF/41/dao0803.pdf

Public Expenditure

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportions of transfer payments which were payments from the lifetime rich to the lifetime poor in *(a)* 1992, *(b)* 1997, *(c)* 2001 and *(d)* 2006. [134131]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made.

Social Security Benefits: Children

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax has been collected under Chapter 8 of Part 2 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 since the introduction of the legislation; and how many taxpayers have been liable for tax as a result of being in deemed employment within the meaning of that chapter. [134808]

Ed Balls: Those covered by the Intermediaries legislation are required to register with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as employers and to operate PAYE/NIC on actual and deemed payments of employment income to workers. HMRC does not routinely collect data in respect of specific types of employer from PAYE/NIC returns. As such it is not possible to isolate data relating solely to this legislation.

Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many personal visits were made by officials to tax credit claimants prior to court summons being issued for the recovery of overpayments in each *(a)* year, *(b)* quarter and *(c)* month since April 2003. [133996]

John Healey: The information requested is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, but HMRC's policy is to attempt to make personal contact in all cases before legal proceedings are considered including at least one visit to the last known address of the claimant.

Taxation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax repayment claim forms were sent *(a)* automatically and *(b)* after case review by officials to regular claimants in each year since 1997. [134635]

John Healey: The total number of tax repayment claim forms issued automatically by HM Revenue and Customs, to customers who have claimed repayment in the previous year, since 2000-01 (the data are not held for earlier years) is as follows.

	Number
2000-01	567,302
2001-02	524,140
2002-03	442,579
2003-04	380,033
2004-05	368,103
2005-06	357,889
2006-07	324,601

The reduction in the numbers of claim forms issued reflects an increase in the number of eligible people who have completed an R85 form to receive their bank and building society interest without any tax deductions.

In addition, HM Revenue and Customs also issue tax repayment claim forms on request (no data are held on the number issued each year).

Taxation: Aviation

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the risk of going into liquidation for small tour operators as a result of costs imposed by air passenger duty; and what steps he is taking to prevent this. [131432]

John Healey: No formal assessment has been conducted. Some small tour operators have written to the Chancellor about the Government's decision, but I am not aware that any have expressed a risk of insolvency.

No provision exists to extend Government help in these specific circumstances and it is doubtful whether it would be legal to distinguish between operators in this way or to offer assistance to the sector under EU state aid rules.

Taxation: Quarrying

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal incentives are in place to discourage quarrying and promote the use of alternative raw materials to protect the environment. [134646]

John Healey: The aggregates levy ensures that the external costs associated with exploitation of aggregate are reflected in the price of aggregate. The price increase reduces demand for and encourages efficient use of freshly quarried aggregate materials.

The levy is also structured to promote use of alternatives to virgin aggregates from more sustainable sources, such as recycled demolition waste and slate waste, by granting these materials exemption from the levy.

The levy is part of a package of environmental measures (including the landfill tax and climate change levy) designed to encourage more efficient processes, environmental awareness and sustainable development. Research shows the levy, as part of this package, is helping to meet the Government's policy aims. For example, Great Britain has seen a reduction in sales of virgin aggregate by around 18 million tonnes between 2001 and 2005 and an increase in the use of recycled aggregate in England of around 5.5 million tonnes.

Taxation: Small Businesses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons were for the change in small and medium companies' tax rates in 2008 announced in the last Budget; and what assessment he has made of the impact of those changes on their competitiveness. [134568]

John Healey: Paragraphs 3.11 to 3.39 in Chapter 3 of Budget 2007 available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_07/report/bud_budget07_repindex.cfm

outline the rationale for the major business tax reforms announced at the Budget, including those that impact on small and medium companies, and details how these reforms will help to boost the growth, productivity and international competitiveness of businesses in the UK.

Teenage Pregnancy: Suffolk

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many girls under the age of 16 years *(a)* became pregnant and *(b)* gave birth in (i) Bury St. Edmunds constituency and (ii) Suffolk county council area in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. [134691]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 1 May 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many girls under the age of 16 years (a) became pregnant and (b) gave birth in (i) Bury St. Edmunds constituency and (ii) Suffolk County Council area in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. I am replying in her absence. (134691)

Numbers of conceptions in Suffolk County for the years 1996-2005 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are shown in the table below. Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Figures on under 16 pregnancies are estimated using the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

Information on conceptions is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. Figures cannot be provided by parliamentary constituency because of the risk of disclosing individual's information, due to small differences between the parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries.

ONS does not publish figures by single year of age below the age of 16 by either local or health authority because of the risk of disclosing individual's information.

Numbers of maternities in Suffolk County for the years 1996-2005 are shown in the table below.

Maternity counts are for girls aged under 16 in each year at which either one or more live birth or stillbirth occurred.

Birth figures cannot be provided for Bury St. Edmunds parliamentary constituency for the same reason as provided for conceptions.

Number of conceptions and maternities to girls aged under 16, Suffolk, 1996-2005

	Conceptions	Maternities
1996	82	12
1997	89	12
1998	71	12
1999	58	14
2000	62	5
2001	73	12
2002	75	13
2003	93	19
2004	73	12
2005[1]	73	9

[1] Conceptions for 2005 are provisional.

VAT

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the impact on VAT receipts of the changes set out in schedule 3 of the Finance Bill 2007. [134702]

John Healey: The net yield from the changes set out in schedule 3 of the Finance Bill 2007 is set out at Table A2 of the Budget 2007 book.

VAT: Disabled

Roger Berry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward legislative proposals to make goods and services for the exclusive personal use of disabled people eligible for VAT relief. [134425]

John Healey: There is a wide range of goods and services supplied to disabled people for their personal use on which VAT is not chargeable. This includes certain building alterations to a disabled person's home, wheelchairs and mobility scooters, and equipment designed solely for use by a disabled person.

Under the VAT agreements with our European partners, signed by successive Governments, we can retain our existing VAT zero rates, but we may not extend them or introduce new ones. It is therefore not possible to remove VAT from additional goods and services purchased for the exclusive personal use of a disabled person.

More generally, the Government are carefully considering evidence presented in the recent Low Incomes Tax Reform Group's report "VAT and disabled people—the case for removing the barriers", and will assess whether any of the recommended VAT changes, including new reduced rates, would be consistent with our European

VAT agreements and well-targeted and cost-effective when compared with the range of support already provided for people with disabilities.

VAT: Turbines

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any plans to remove VAT from domestic wind turbines generating green energy. [133470]

John Healey *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* Under the VAT agreements with our European partners, signed by successive Governments, we can retain our existing VAT zero rates, but we may not extend them or introduce new ones. It is therefore not possible to remove VAT entirely from domestic wind turbines.

Under the same European agreements, a reduced rate of VAT of not less than 5 per cent. is available for the construction, renovation and alteration of housing provided as part of a social policy. We have used this provision to introduce a reduced rate of VAT for the installation by contractors of a range of energy-saving and energy-efficient products and microgeneration technologies, including solar panels and wind turbines, in houses and other residential accommodation.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how may tax credit recipients have not received one or more payments as scheduled in April 2007 as a result of renewing awards in the new tax year 2007-08; [133629]

(2) whether guidance has been circulated to HM Revenue and Customs staff centrally and in local HM Revenue and Customs offices on issuing interim manual payments to tax credit recipients who have not received one or more payments as a result of renewing awards in the new tax year 2007-08. [133631]

Mr. Timms: I am not aware of any claimants not receiving payments scheduled in April 2007 as a result of them renewing their tax credit award for the tax year 2007-08.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how may tax credit recipients did not receive one or more payments in *(a)* April 2006, *(b)* April 2005 and *(c)* April 2004 as a result of renewing awards at the beginning of each new tax year. [133630]

Mr. Timms: This information is not available.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether people of whom HM Revenue and Customs have no records and who illegally pay no tax are included within the estimates of those entitled to receive tax credits in the Family Resource Survey cited in HM Revenue and Customs' Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit Take-up rates 2004-05; [133749]

(2) whether the figures in the HM Revenue and Customs document Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit Take-up rates 2004-05 take account of an estimate of *(a)* the amounts which were fraudulently claimed and *(b)* the number of couples fraudulently claiming to be lone parents. [134396]

Mr. Timms: The methodology used by HMRC in producing the child and working tax credits take-up statistics is detailed in pages 13 to 17 of the HMRC publication "Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit Take-up Rates 2004-05", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

The number of recipients of tax credits is drawn from HMRC administrative data. HMRC have a range of compliance processes in place to ensure that only claims from those eligible for tax credits are put into payment. This includes cross checking income information from the tax credit claim form against other HMRC systems.

The number of entitled non-recipients of tax credits is estimated from the Family Resources Survey and the British Household Panel Survey. Survey data received by HM Revenue and Customs are anonymised. It is not therefore possible to establish whether particular families are non-compliant with respect to tax or tax credits.

The methodology minimises the effect of non-compliance on the take-up rate figures as the recipient population is included both in the numerator and denominator of the calculation.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Climate, Energy and Security

11. **Dr. Desmond Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the levels of support among the permanent members of the UN Security Council for discussing the relationship between climate and energy security. [134742]

Mr. McCartney: Without support from all the permanent members of the Security Council the debate on climate, energy and security could not have taken place. There was some procedural opposition, based upon perceptions of the role of the Security Council versus the General Assembly, but there is growing international acceptance of the relationship between climate, energy and security, as shown by China's recognition during the debate that climate change had security implications.

Iran

15. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on Iran's nuclear programme. [134748]

18. **Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on Iran's nuclear programme. [134752]

Dr. Howells: We remain very concerned about Iran's nuclear programme. The United Nations has imposed sanctions on Iran to persuade them to suspend their

proliferation-sensitive activities and return to negotiations on the basis of proposals we presented to Iran last June. This would give Iran everything it needs to develop a state of the art civil nuclear industry, and wider benefits, in a way that addresses the concerns of the international community.

Darfur

16. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the security situation in the Darfur region. [134750]

Mr. McCartney: Security remains precarious. Humanitarian agencies face increasing banditry. The Sudanese Government resumed bombing villages in Darfur last week, resulting in a number of civilian injuries and deaths. We condemn these attacks, which show little regard for human life. They violated UN Security Council Resolution 1591 and must cease immediately. All sides to the conflict must commit to the peace process or face further measures in the Security Council. The Government remain actively engaged on this issue at the highest levels. I raised our concerns with the Sudanese Justice Minister while at the Human Rights Council in March.

19. **Robert Neill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the security situation in the Darfur region. [134753]

Mr. McCartney: Security remains precarious. Humanitarian agencies face increasing banditry. The Sudanese Government resumed bombing villages in Darfur last week, resulting in a number of civilian injuries and deaths. We condemn these attacks, which show little regard for human life. They violated UNSCR 1591 and must cease immediately. All sides to the conflict must commit to the peace process or face further measures in the Security Council.

Iraqi Kurdistan

17. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the social, political and economic development of Iraqi Kurdistan since 1990; and if she will make a statement. [134751]

Dr. Howells: The social, political and economic development in the Kurdish region since 1990, following the establishment of the no-fly zone and the formation of the Kurdish Regional Government and National Assembly, has helped to foster a more developed economy than in other parts of Iraq.

The provinces of Erbil, Dohuk and Suleymaniyah that the Kurdish regional government administers enjoy moderate stability. Security is better than in the rest of Iraq.

EU Foreign Minister

20. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions she has had with the German Chancellor on proposals for an EU Foreign Minister. [134754]

Mr. Hoon: I have had regular discussions with my German colleagues during their presidency. So too has my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, who met Chancellor Merkel most recently on 24 April.

Our discussions cover many issues, including the way forward on institutional reform. There is no consensus at present among EU partners on this issue. We will discuss it at the European Council in June.

Sheikh Hasina

21. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations she has made to the Bangladeshi Government on the position of Sheikh Hasina. [134755]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave her today (UIN 134701).

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects the European Union Security and Defence Policy policing mission to Afghanistan to be launched; and what decisions have been made about the UK contribution to the mission. [132710]

Margaret Beckett: The European Union Security and Defence Policy policing mission to Afghanistan is scheduled to be launched in June. The mission will be staffed by approximately 160 personnel, of which the UK plans to contribute about 10 per cent.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role she expects the European Union Security and Defence Policy policing mission to Afghanistan to play in the field of counter-narcotics; and if she will make a statement. [132711]

Margaret Beckett: The European Union Security and Defence Policy policing mission to Afghanistan aims to raise the quality of policing in Afghanistan. The mission contains an objective to integrate the Counter-Narcotics Police of Afghanistan into the wider police force in order to factor counter-narcotics into all law enforcement efforts.

Business: Corruption

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK officials attended the last three meetings of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions. [134650]

Mr. McCartney: Each meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Working Group on Bribery takes place over three days. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) leads the UK delegation and not all UK officials attend every session of each meeting. In total, the following UK officials attended the last three meetings:

The October 2006 meeting was attended by one official from the FCO; one from the City of London Police; one from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS); one from the Serious Fraud Office (SFO).

The January meeting was attended by three officials from the FCO; one from the Attorney General's Office; three from the SFO; one from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) Police; two from the CPS; one from the City of London Police; one from the Home Office (HO).

The March meeting was attended by four officials from the FCO; one from the Attorney General's Office; two from the SFO; one from the CPS; one from the MOD Police; two from the City of London Police; one from the HO; one from the Department for International Development.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the *(a)* Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and *(b)* OECD member states on the publicisation of the work of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions as it affects investigations in the UK. [134652]

Mr. McCartney: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Group on Bribery regularly publicises aspects of its work, for example by press statements on the group's country monitoring reports. Such press statements are discussed and agreed in plenary by all members of the group. However, the group operates under an understanding that the country being monitored has the right to comment on the text, but foregoes its right to block the final text.

As the hon. Member is aware, recent meetings of this group in January and March have discussed, among other subjects, the circumstances surrounding the discontinuance of the Serious Fraud Office's investigation into allegations about BAE Systems' activities in Saudi Arabia. At the end of both the January and March meetings, the group agreed a press statement on the UK under the established procedure described above. In the run-up to and during these meetings, British officials discussed with the OECD Secretariat and partner OECD Governments various relevant aspects including possible options for press communications, and how those might be organised. This included proposals for a formal press briefing at the end of the March meeting.

Since the March meeting of the Working Group, there have been no formal press communications proposed. British officials have therefore made no further representations concerning the group's media activities.

Chad: Peacekeeping Operations

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the proposals for a United Nations peacekeeping force in Chad and the Central African Republic. [135261]

Mr. McCartney: We remain very concerned about the humanitarian and security situation in Eastern Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR) and the spill over of violence from Darfur. On 16 April my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called for UN Security Council agreement to a UN peacekeeping operation in Chad, as called for under UN Security Council Resolution 1706.

We are working with the UN and partners on the Security Council to seek to address any concerns raised by the Governments of Chad and CAR about the possible deployment of a UN peacekeeping force. We continue to urge the Government of Chad to improve regional security and work actively with non-governmental organisations operating in the region.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 564-65W, on Departments: official hospitality, how much the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine has advised her Department to be a suitable expenditure on stock for *(a)* the Government cellar and *(b)* other hospitality for which her Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [133991]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 14 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2137-38W. The Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine (GHACPW) advises Government Hospitality according to the requirements of the Government cellar, wine market prices, the availability of individual wines and vintages and their quality. The GHACPW does not determine the level of expenditure on wines and spirits; that is the responsibility of the head of Government Hospitality. The GHACPW does not provide advice on expenditure for the purchase of wine for other hospitality carried out by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by her Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134044]

Mr. Hoon: 100 per cent. of copier paper purchased by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) through contracts is from recycled sources. This was the case in each of the last three years.

In each of the past three years, one hundred per cent of paper used in printed publications purchased through contracts used by the FCO was from recycled sources.

Statistics are not available for paper that was not purchased through contracts. This is because the FCO's overseas missions have the ability to procure their paper locally where this offers the best overall value for money.

Dhabihu'llah Mahrami

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of the expropriation of the home of Mr. Dhabihu'llah Mahrami, who died in prison in Iran on 15 December 2005; and if she will make a statement. [134442]

Dr. Howells: We have not received reports of the expropriation of the home of Mr. Dhabihu'llah Mahrami, but we are prepared to take further action as appropriate.

We understand that Mr. Mahrami died in custody on 15 December 2005. Mr. Mahrami's case had previously appeared on the EU list of cases of concern used in the EU-Iran Human Rights Dialogue. The EU raised the death of Mr. Mahrami in a meeting with the Iranian authorities on 31 January 2006 and handed over a note verbale requesting further information.

We continue to have concerns about the situation of religious minorities in Iran and treatment of the Baha'i community in particular. We often receive reports of discrimination against Baha'is in Iran.

We continue to press the Iranian authorities to take seriously their international human rights obligations, uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief, as described in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and address the discrimination suffered by Iranian Baha'is. The UN General Assembly Resolution about the human rights situation in Iran, adopted in December 2006 and co-sponsored by the EU, expressed serious concern at

"the disregard of property rights, including through de facto expropriation, as noted in the report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing"

and

"the escalation and increased frequency of discrimination and other human rights violations against members of the Baha'i Faith".

Embassies: Closures

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK *(a)* embassies and *(b)* consulates have been closed in each of the last three years. [134627]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has closed nine embassies and high commissions over the last three years. Fifteen consulates have been closed over the same period of time. These missions are listed in the following table. In addition, six commercial and information offices, staffed by locally engaged staff were also closed.

The FCO continuously reviews the deployment of its resources and aligns them flexibly in line with UK interests to the benefit of the British taxpayer.

Missions closed

Year: 1 April to 31 March	*Embassies/High Commissions*	*Consulates*
2004-05	—	Douala[1], Tarawa[1] and Oporto
2005-06	Nassau, Abidjan[2], Maseru, Antananarivo, Asuncion, Mbabane, Nuku' alofa and Port Vila	Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Fukuoka[1], Dallas, San Juan[1] and Aden[1]
2006-07	Dili	Adelaide[1], Hamburg, Nagoya, Kingstown[1], Gothenburg and Seattle[1]

[1] Consulates staffed by locally engaged staff only.
[2] Operations at this embassy have been suspended due to the uncertain security situation in the Ivory Coast.

Ethiopia: Arms Trade

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what responses she has received on Ethiopia's arms trade with North Korea; what assessment she has made of whether that trade is compliant with UN Security Council Resolution 1718; and if she will make a statement; [132419]

(2) what discussions she has had with her US counterpart on Ethiopia's arms trade with North Korea; what the outcome was of those discussions; and if she will make a statement. [132420]

Margaret Beckett: We are in contact with US and other counterparts about issues relating to the enforcement of UN Security Council Resolution 1718, including Ethiopia's arms trade with North Korea. We continue to support vigorous implementation of the measures in the resolution and the work of the Security Council's Sanctions Committee for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in monitoring implementation and compliance.

Foreign Policy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what units, working groups or task forces her Department has established in the last 12 months on the future direction of the Government's foreign policy; which officials have been appointed to those groups; and if she will make a statement. [133231]

Margaret Beckett: No such units, working groups, or task forces have been established in the last 12 months in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). We have, however, reconstituted the FCO's Policy Planning Staff, a strengthened successor to the Strategic Policy Team. They, and others in the FCO, contributed significantly to the Britain in the World exercise, part of the Pathways to the Future Policy Review, which examined the challenges we face internationally and considered how we can be more effective in achieving our international objectives going forward.

Iran: Discrimination

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the adverse treatment by teachers and school administrators in Iran of children belonging to the Baha'i faith; and if she will make a statement. [134440]

Dr. Howells: We continue to have concerns about the situation of religious minorities in Iran and treatment of the Baha'i community in particular.

We have received some reports from the National Assembly of the Baha'is of the United Kingdom about persecution of Baha'i school children and are currently trying to find out more information about these serious claims. We will take further action as appropriate.

We continue to raise the situation of religious minorities bilaterally, and through the EU, and have pressed the Iranian authorities on many occasions to take seriously their international human rights obligations, uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief as described

in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and address the intimidation and discrimination suffered by Iranian Baha'is. We also take action at the UN and in December 2006, we along with all EU countries, co-sponsored a resolution on human rights in Iran which expressed serious concern at

"the escalation and increased frequency of discrimination and other human rights violations against members of the Baha'i Faith".

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have made representations to the Iranian authorities on the treatment of the Baha'i faith and the Baha'i community by leading Iranian media outlets; and if she will make a statement. [134441]

Dr. Howells: We continue to have concerns about the situation of religious minorities in Iran, and treatment of the Baha'i community in particular. We regularly receive reports of intimidation and discrimination against Baha'is in Iran.

We remain concerned about reports that Iranian newspapers including Keyhan have been carrying out a propaganda campaign against the Baha'i community. We raised our concerns about this in an EU demarche on 11 April 2006, and on 10 April 2006, EU Foreign Ministers underlined their

"continued concerns about the human rights situation in Iran, in particular regarding the situation of the Baha'is".

We continue to raise the situation of the Baha'is with the Iranian authorities, bilaterally and through the EU. We also take action at the UN and in December 2006, we along with all EU countries, co-sponsored a resolution on human rights in Iran, which expressed serious concern at

"the escalation and increased frequency of discrimination and other human rights violations against members of the Baha'i Faith".

Iraq: Casualties

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British civilians are known to have suffered injury in Iraq since the beginning of March 2003. [134478]

Dr. Howells: Our consular records show that at least 47 civilians entitled to consular assistance have been hospitalised, reported as injured and medivaced since March 2003. This is not a definitive figure as records include only those cases where consular assistance has been sought.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on the Government's discussions with the Iraqi government on the release of accurate and up-to-date figures on civilian deaths in Iraq. [132538]

Margaret Beckett: The Government do not collate figures for civilian casualties in Iraq. Both the Iraqi Ministries of Interior and Health published figures in January, but there is no 100 per cent. reliable and accurate assessment of casualties in Iraq. Estimates of the numbers of civilian deaths vary according to the methods used. We continue to press the Iraqi government to release the most up-to-date figures.

According to figures released by the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior on 2 January, 12,320 civilians were killed during 2006. The UN Assistance Mission for Iraq estimates that 34,452 civilians were killed in 2006, on the basis of information obtained through the Iraqi Health Ministry, hospitals and the Medico-Legal Institute in Baghdad. No further figures are currently available.

Iraq: Police

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made since July 2006 on achieving the milestones for police reform in the Iraqi provinces of *(a)* Al Basrah, *(b)* Al Muthanna, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Maysan; and if she will make a statement. [132518]

Margaret Beckett: Since my reply to the hon. Member on 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1267W, the following progress has been made against milestones.

In Basra, there has been progress against milestones for police training, infrastructure and operational capability. 87 per cent. of police are now trained (increase from 63 per cent.) and the majority of training is now carried out by the Iraqis. Over 80 per cent. of police stations in Basra city are assessed as being largely or fully capable of carrying out their duties. The notorious 'Serious Crimes Unit' was disbanded by the December 2006 operation and a functioning Department of Internal Affairs has been established to investigate, arrest and prosecute corrupt police officers. Significant challenges do remain with the Basra police and we will continue to engage in reform activity.

The provinces of Dhi Qar[1] and Maysan have been approved for transfer to Provincial Iraqi Control and were transferred on 21 September 2006 and 18 April 2007 respectively. The police forces in these provinces are now fully equipped and are judged by the National Civilian Policing Assistance Training Team as being largely capable.

[1] The Italian contingent of Multi-National Force-Iraq has always had responsibility for police assistance in Dhi Qar province.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter of 1 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Dr. Elizabeth Thomas. [132486]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

A reply was sent on 30 March 2007.

Ministerial Changes

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether her Department has undertaken work in preparation for a change of Prime Minister; and if she will make a statement. [134000]

Margaret Beckett: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's objective is to deliver the foreign policy priorities of the elected Government over the course of a Parliament, and that is what it is focusing on.

North Korea: Arms Trade

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the extent of North Korea's arms trade; which countries North Korea *(a)* exports arms to and *(b)* imports arms from; what discussions she has had with her United Nations counterparts on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [132422]

Margaret Beckett: The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) does not publish details of its arms exports and imports. However, independent organisations publish estimates, for example the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which gives estimates of the DPRK's arms imports and exports for 1995-2005.

The DPRK is considered to be the world's most prolific supplier of ballistic missiles and related technology to countries of concern. During negotiations for the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1718, the UK discussed with international partners in the UN ways to curb the DPRK proliferation of missiles and weapons of mass destruction-related materials around the world. UNSCR 1718, adopted in October 2006, imposes a ban on the export to the DPRK of nuclear and ballistic-missile goods and technologies, a ban on the export of arms to the DPRK, a ban on technical assistance and advice related to all these items and a ban on the export by the DPRK of proliferation-sensitive goods and technologies. The UK and its partners will continue to urge the DPRK to comply with UNSCR 1718 and resume its obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

North Korea: UN Resolutions

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of international compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1718, on North Korea; and if she will make a statement. [132421]

Margaret Beckett: The UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea meets regularly, in accordance with its mandate under UN Security Council Resolution 1718. Part of its mandate is to seek information from all states on implementation. On 16 April the Committee reported to the Security Council that 68 countries had submitted reports on their progress on implementation of the resolution. We continue to support the work of the Sanctions Committee in monitoring implementation of, and compliance with, the resolution.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was allocated to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development by the Government in each of the last three years; what commitments regarding future funding have been entered into; and if she will make a statement. [134651]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) contributed:

	€
2006	11,190,557.70
2005	10,994,179.04
2004	10,515,959.77

to the Part I (core) budget of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which funds the work of OECD committees and to which all member states contribute. As agreed with the OECD, the FCO pays these contributions quarterly, though the cost in sterling varies, owing to exchange rate fluctuations. The FCO contributes separately to budgets to cover the redevelopment costs of the OECD's Paris headquarters, pensions, and publications.

In 2007, UK assessed contributions for Part I amount to €11,354,731.20. As the OECD's budget is agreed bi-annually, we are committed to paying the same amount as in 2007 plus a nominal 1 per cent. increase in 2008. However, the exact figure will only be known in January 2008 as it depends on the UK's share of the overall OECD budget, which is calculated annually based on the size of member states' gross domestic product.

These totals exclude UK contributions to Part II organisations, such as the International Energy Agency or the Sahel Club, as well as voluntary payments for specific areas of OECD work, which individual Government Departments pay directly periodically. The figures in the table denote the total voluntary contributions to Part I of the OECD budget by all UK Government Departments:

	(€)	*Contributions*
2006	3,850,246	38
2005	2,705,040	31
2004	3,103,409	27

Pakistan: Frontiers

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her counterpart in Pakistan on the landmining of the country's border with Afghanistan. [134402]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed this subject with President Musharraf in Pakistan on 26 February. The UK recognises the efforts being made by Pakistan to curb cross-border infiltration across the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. The UK position on the use of landmines, however, is well known and we urge Pakistan to find solutions with less destructive long-term humanitarian consequences. We note that President Musharraf announced on 2 February that he has decided for the time being not to mine the border.

Panjab Singh

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department has taken on behalf of British citizen Panjab Singh following his complaint of ill-treatment by the Indian authorities during his arrest and detention. [134749]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of the allegations of ill-treatment Mr. Singh has made. We take all such allegations by British nationals very seriously. We are obtaining the specific details of the allegations from Mr. Singh and will be taking these forward with the Indian authorities.

Shiekh Hasina

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to clarify with the Government in Bangladesh the position of Sheikh Hasina. [134701]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the position of Sheikh Hasina with Dr. Iftekhar Chowdhury, Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser on 19 April. I note that the caretaker Government have since lifted the restriction on Sheikh Hasina's return to Bangladesh.

Sudan: Human Rights

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council High Level Mission to Sudan. [135260]

Mr. McCartney: The High Level Mission on Human Rights in Darfur reported gross and systematic violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law in Darfur. The report recommended more effective protection through: the deployment of the UN/African Union peacekeeping force and more human rights monitors; a ceasefire and negotiated peace; effective delivery of humanitarian assistance and on-going donor support; and tackling impunity, including through Government of Sudan co-operation with the International Criminal Court.

Following the report's publication I, and the UK Permanent Representative to the Human Rights Council (HRC), called on the Council to take effective action on Darfur and support the report's recommendations. I made clear to the Sudanese Justice Minister that it was unacceptable that Sudan had not co-operated with the High Level Mission.

The UK, with our EU Partners, played a key role in getting the HRC to adopt a resolution on 30 March supporting the implementation of the Mission's recommendations. The resolution created a mechanism to ensure the Government of Sudan implement all existing UN recommendations on human rights in Darfur, and for a further report on human rights in Darfur to be presented to the fifth session of the HRC, 11-18 June.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely levels of co-operation of the Government of Sudan with the UN/AMIS peacekeeping force for Darfur. [134745]

Mr. McCartney: The Government of Sudan have agreed to the Heavy Support Package of United Nations' support to the African Union (AU). But this is only a step towards the joint UN-AU hybrid operation needed to provide protection to Darfur's citizens. The Government of Sudan must agree to the hybrid force and co-operate fully with its implementation. If they do not honour their commitments we are prepared to introduce tougher measures.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will discuss the setting up of an AU-UN force operational within Darfur with the Chinese Government. [134925]

Mr. McCartney: We regularly discuss Darfur with the Chinese Government including at the UN. We want China to use its considerable influence with the Sudanese Government to help ensure Khartoum supports deployment of the joint African Union/UN peacekeeping in Darfur, as well as a ceasefire and renewed political process. We gave this message to the Chinese Government before President Hu's visit to Africa earlier this year. My right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister also raised Darfur on 23 April, during his recent visit to China.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the capacity of the French air force in Chad to monitor a no-fly zone over Darfur. [134930]

Mr. McCartney: We have not made a military assessment of the French air force's capacity in Chad to monitor a no-fly zone over Darfur. The French military have long-standing ties with Chad and any such measure would also require the Chadian Government's consent.

We remain deeply concerned by the situation in Darfur. We are discussing new measures in the UN Security Council. They could include measures to allow better air monitoring of the violence in Darfur and the possibility of imposing a no-fly-zone.

UN Human Rights Council

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact of the decision in March by the UN Human Rights Council to end its scrutiny of Iran and Uzbekistan; and whether the UK has made representations to the Council on the decision. [132713]

Margaret Beckett: At its fourth session, 12-30 March 2007, the UN Human Rights Council discontinued consideration of specific cases relating to Iran and Uzbekistan under its confidential complaints procedure. The confidential nature of that procedure prevents us from commenting on any details of the cases, and on

the position taken by the UK. We do, however, emphasise strongly our deep concern over persistent violations of human rights in both Uzbekistan and Iran, and our corresponding belief that the UN should address these situations. For that reason, the UK co-sponsored the resolution passed by the UN General Assembly last autumn on the human rights situation in Iran; and the attempted resolution on the human rights situation in Uzbekistan, which unfortunately failed to pass a vote in the General Assembly's Third Committee, also last autumn. The independent UN Special Rapporteurs on human rights questions have frequently commented on issues in Iran and Uzbekistan in the course of their work; that work continues.

Whales: Conservation

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department has taken to promote internationally the publication "Protecting Whales: A Global Responsibility" from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. [134006]

Margaret Beckett: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office initially distributed copies of the publication to 57 posts, in countries identified as being particularly important in the run-up to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) 59. In consultation with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, we shall be distributing more widely to include posts accredited to all IWC member countries and others where there may be value in doing so.

World Bank

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her international counterparts concerning the World Bank president; and if she will make a statement. [133812]

Dr. Howells: UK policy on the World Bank is the responsibility of the Department for International Development. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development is the UK representative on the World Bank Board of Governors.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 2 May 2007

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance the Government are providing to projects promoting human rights and democracy in Burma. [135640]

Mr. Thomas: DFID provides significant support to projects to help the people of Burma access their human rights and build the foundations for sustainable democracy. Our programme includes a wide variety of activities, such as capacity-building for local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), training for journalists, work to involve poor people in decision-making about issues that affect them, and support for the empowerment of poor women. In addition, the British embassy in Rangoon is carrying out extremely valuable work to build local capacity.

DFID is about to start work on the implementation of a £3.0 million programme designed to expand and strengthen DFID's work to support increased prospects for a successful transition to democracy and respect for human rights in Burma. The programme will increase opportunities for Burma's people to engage in political decision-making processes at local level affecting their welfare, livelihoods and governance.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Department in the last 12 months. [135158]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's grievance procedure is fully compliant with UK legislation and applies to civil servants working in the UK and overseas. We also apply it, unless local law dictates otherwise, to staff appointed in country (SAIC) who work under local contracts. In the last year, 13 grievance procedures were initiated in DFID, as set out in the following table.

	Number
Number of cases	13
Number upheld	3
Not upheld	8
Cases currently under way	2
Appeals	2
Appeals upheld	0

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134825]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's grievance procedures are fully compliant with UK legislation and apply to civil servants working in the UK and overseas. We also apply them to our locally appointed staff overseas, who work under local contacts, unless local law dictates otherwise.

DFID investigated less than five complaints of bullying in the last 12 months. Due to the small number, a breakdown by number, employment status and outcome is not made public on the grounds of confidentiality.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [135000]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is committed to meeting the new sustainable operations on the Government Estate targets including the mandatory requirement to source at least 10 per cent. of energy from renewable sources.

During 2006-07 DFID consumed 6,991,124 kilowatt hours of electricity; approximately 95 per cent. of which was from renewable sources. From the start of 2007 the proportion from renewable sources is 100 per cent.

International Assistance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will assess the merits of reporting against the underweight indicator in the public service agreement as one of the agreed indicators for millennium development goal 1. [135630]

Hilary Benn: DFID is currently developing the indicators for the new public service agreement (PSA) on international poverty reduction which will cover the period April 2008 to March 2011. The final indicators will be subject to approval by the Treasury and will be dependent on wider discussions across Government.

The elimination of poverty in poorer countries through the achievement of the millennium development goals still remains our overarching goal. The PSA will therefore draw indicators from the set of millennium development goals and the inclusion of a specific indicator covering the prevalence of underweight children under five years of age is part of our current proposal.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Climate Change

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 766W, on climate change, what the publication date is for the final report of the independent review into the activities of the Meteorological Office Hadley Centre. [134591]

Ian Pearson: The final report on the independent review into the activities of the Meteorological Office Hadley Centre is due to be published by early summer.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will make it his policy that, at the forthcoming Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in Bangkok, temperature data be made available as part of the summary for policy makers; and if he will make a statement; [135052]

(2) why temperature data over the last 10,000 years were excluded from the Final Draft International Panel on Climate Change Summary for Policy Makers. [135053]

Ian Pearson: *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* The forthcoming meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in Bangkok will comprise the ninth session of IPCC Working Group III and the 26th session of the IPCC. The first meeting will accept the Working Group III contribution to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) and approve its Summary for Policymakers (SPM). The second meeting will accept the actions by the sessions of IPCC Working Groups I, II and III, review the IPCC terms of reference and discuss future work.

The reports of the IPCC are written by hundreds of scientists from across the world and provide an assessment of peer-reviewed scientific and technical literature on climate change. The IPCC does not carry out new research. As such, all the data contained within the IPCC's reports are already available in published literature and are independent of Government.

The SPM summarises the findings of the underlying report. The SPM is drafted by scientists and agreed by all Governments at the IPCC plenaries. The agreement of the SPM helps to communicate the IPCC outputs to Governments. No one Government, organisation or individual has sole responsibility for any part of the report.

Livestock: Waste Disposal

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he is taking to mitigate the adverse environmental effects of fallen stock collection and incineration and the associated carbon dioxide emissions; [134334]

(2) how much carbon dioxide was released into the environment as a result of *(a)* fallen stock collection, *(b)* the burning of fallen stock and *(c)* the rendering of fallen stock in each year between 2004 and 2006. [134336]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department has made no assessment on the amount of carbon dioxide released as a result of fallen stock collection and disposal. However, total UK greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture fell by 16.4 per cent. between 1990 and 2005—the latest year that estimates are available.

The Animal By-Products Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002 prohibits the burial, dumping or open-burning of fallen stock (with few exceptions) and is in place to protect public and animal health. Incineration and rendering provide a safe and controlled way of dealing with the disposal of animal carcasses.

There are various animal health and environmental controls that incinerator operators must follow when disposing of fallen stock. These can be found on the DEFRA website.

Sewage: Renewable Energy

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* supported into energy production through (i) fermentation, (ii) microbial fuel cells, (iii) anaerobic digestion, (iv) gasification and (v) pyrolysis of sewage. [134790]

Ian Pearson: My Department has not commissioned or supported any research into these methods of energy production, as they are well established and successful technologies.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what incentives are in place to encourage water companies to invest in energy production from sewage waste. [134792]

Ian Pearson: The Government's key mechanism for encouraging renewable electricity generation is the renewables obligation (RO) which will provide around £1 billion per year of support to the renewables industry by 2010. Sewage gas and (subject to certain conditions) biomass waste, which could be sewage or sewage sludge, are eligible under the RO.

Water Charges

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* standing charges, *(b)* cost per litre and *(c)* other charges levied by each water company in England and Wales are on individual households (i) with and (ii) without water meters. [134672]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales. It approves companies' charges schemes each year and provides detailed information in its water and sewerage charges report. Ofwat will publish its 2007-08 report on 16 May.

The volumetric rate for metered customers is calculated on the basis of cost per cubic metre. The following tables summarise the charges that are levied by water companies for 2007-08 on households both with and without water meters.

Unmetered water and sewerage tariffs for household customers 2007-08

	Fixed water charge (£/year)	*Rateable value water charge (p/£RV)*	*Average water bill in 2007-08 (£)*	*Fixed sewerage charge (£/year)*	*Rateable value sewerage charge (p/£RV)*	*Average sewerage bill in 2007-08 (£)*
Water and sewerage companies						
Anglian:	—	—	189	141.89	45.01	228
Anglian	118.93	42.05	—	—	—	—
Hartlepool	116.81	—	—	—	—	—
Dwr Cymru	106.27	60.56	171	135.42	82.56	230
Northumbrian:	—	—	—	95.40	46.35	163
North East	68.40	41.23	129	—	—	—
Essex and Suffolk:	39.00	—	180	—	—	—
Essex	—	57.92	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	101.79	—	—	—	—
Severn Trent:	—	—	145	—	—	139
Zone 1	—	85.47	—	—	80.15	—
Zone 2	—	76.92	—	—	67.50	—
Zone 3	—	74.59	—	—	71.12	—
Zone 4	—	77.93	—	—	77.11	—
Zone 5	—	89.60	—	—	89.97	—
Zone 6	—	93.20	—	—	87.13	—
Zone 7	—	93.84	—	—	84.91	—
Zone 8	—	74.59	—	—	70.62	—
South West	93.50	99.12	242	82.50	223.58	408
Southern	29.54	48.00	121	56.28	89.60	228
Thames:	25.00	—	172	32.00	—	109
Area 1	—	58.34	—	—	30.65	—
Area 2	—	59.39	—	—	31.77	—
Area 3	—	44.64	—	—	19.95	—
Area 4	—	53.45	—	—	28.65	—
Area 5	—	68.66	—	—	37.55	—
Area 6	—	59.55	—	—	31.07	—
Area 7	—	81.81	—	—	43.67	—
United Utilities	47.00	68.60	156	—	114.50	185
Wessex	7.00	113.34	201	7.00	108.56	198
Yorkshire:	—	—	151	35.81	104.00	168
Yorkshire	31.87	95.70	—	—	—	—
York	25.01	54.50	—	—	—	—
Water only companies						
Bournemouth and W Hampshire	21.50	60.64	147	—	—	—
Bristol	22.00	69.30	148	—	—	—
Cambridge	23.40	45.00	123	—	—	—
Cholderton	36.00	68.06	180	—	—	—
Dee Valley:	—	—	131	—	—	—

Unmetered water and sewerage tariffs for household customers 2007-08

	Fixed water charge (£/year)	*Rateable value water charge (p/£RV)*	*Average water bill in 2007-08 (£)*	*Fixed sewerage charge (£/year)*	*Rateable value sewerage charge (p/£RV)*	*Average sewerage bill in 2007-08 (£)*
Chester	30.32	45.03	—	—	—	—
Wrexham	76.84	48.08	—	—	—	—
Folkestone and Dover	43.00	93.82	199	—	—	—
Mid Kent	51.00	65.09	170	—	—	—
Portsmouth	20.00	31.10	85	—	—	—
South East:	20.00	—	179	—	—	—
Eastbourne	—	90.66	—	—	—	—
Mid Southern	—	52.47	—	—	—	—
Mid-Sussex	—	96.50	—	—	—	—
West Kent	—	84.50	—	—	—	—
South Staffordshire	—	55.36	115	—	—	—
Sutton and East Surrey:	—	—	168	—	—	—
Croydon	37.00	35.75	—	—	—	—
Northern Area	144.14	—	—	—	—	—
Southern Area	37.00	60.72	—	—	—	—
Tendring Hundred	33.00	86.32	194	—	—	—
Three Valleys	—	—	158	—	—	—
Three Valleys	34.20	—	—	—	—	—
Colne Valley	—	43.44	—	—	—	—
Lee Valley	—	53.35	—	—	—	—
Rickmansworth	—	42.34	—	—	—	—
North Surrey	34.20	44.61	—	—	—	—

Metered water and sewerage tariffs for household customers 2007-08

	Standing water charge (£/year)	*Volumetric water charge (p/m3)*	*Average water bill in 2007-08*	*Standing sewerage charge (£year)*	*Volumetric sewerage charge (p/m3)*	*Average sewerage bill in 2007-08*
Anglian	—	—	132	—	—	167
Anglian Standard	24.00	115.14	—	67.00	112.04	—
SoLow	0.00	147.14	—	0.00	201.38	—
Aquacare Plus	64.00	61.80	—	111 .00	53.38	—
Hartlepool Standard	24.00	82.09	—	—	—	—
SoLow	0.00	114.09	—	—	—	—
Aquacare Plus	50.00	47.42	—	—	—	—
Dwr Cymru	29.00	122.60	113	65.00	131.30	156

Metered water and sewerage tariffs for household customers 2007-08

	Standing water charge (£/year)	*Volumetric water charge (p/m3)*	*Average water bill in 2007-08*	*Standing sewerage charge (£/year)*	*Volumetric sewerage charge (p/m3)*	*Average sewerage bill in 2007-08*
Northumbrian	28.80	—	—	64.20	81.61	139
North East	—	85.39	110	—	—	—
Essex and Suffolk	—	—	132	—	—	—
Essex	—	93.64	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	127.31	—	—	—	—
Severn Trent	20.95	115.07	134	11.05	78.99	135
South West	27.60	145.03	160	12.12	256.02	218
Southern	26.44	81.80	112	47.30	128.95	179
Thames	24.00	99.18	146	43.00	48.57	108
United Utilities	27.00	121.80	148	77.00	96.50	169
Wessex	17.00	148.25	153	36.00	133.96	162
Yorkshire	—	—	125	35.81	111.25	137
Yorkshire	25.84	109.20	—	—	—	—
York	22.79	61.10	—	—	—	—
Water only companies						
Bournemouth and W Hampshire	21.50	93.79	121		—	—
Bristol	30.00	98.22	126	—	—	—
Cambridge	25.50	75.50	102	—	—	—
Cholderton	25.00	112.51	116	—	—	—
Dee Valley	24.00	—	101	—	—	—
Chester	—	78.08	—	—	—	—
Wrexham	—	84.52	—	—	—	—
Folkestone and Dover	27.68	122.88	148	—	—	—
Mid Kent	—	—	131	—	—	—
Standard	23.40	95.07	—	—	—	—
Low User	0.00	126.27	—	—	—	—
Helpu/Medico	57.54	61.22	—	—	—	—
Portsmouth	24.00	57.50	87	—	—	—
South East	16.12	—	144	—	—	—
Eastbourne	—	140.60	—	—	—	—
Mid Southern	—	79.96	—	—	—	—
Mid-Sussex	—	146.93	—	—	—	—
West Kent	—	117.43	—	—	—	—
South Staffordshire	25.34	78.08	107	—	—	—
Sutton and East Surrey	24.20	—	122	—	—	—
Northern Area	—	79.20	—	—	—	—
Southern Area	—	102.65	—	—	—	—

Metered water and sewerage tariffs for household customers 2007-08

	Standing water charge (£/year)	*Volumetric water charge (p/m3)*	*Average water bill in 2007-08*	*Standing sewerage charge (£/year)*	*Volumetric sewerage charge (p/m3)*	*Average sewerage bill in 2007-08*
Tendring Hundred	23.40	145.79	145	—	—	—
Three Valleys	26.00	84.41	135	—	—	—

WALES

Supermarket Practices

7. **Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department of Trade and Industry on encouraging Welsh farmers to submit evidence to the Competition Commission's inquiry into supermarket practices. [134265]

Nick Ainger: I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues at the Department of Trade and Industry to discuss a variety of issues.

Policing

8. **Peter Viggers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on policing in Wales. [134267]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on all matters affecting Wales, including policing.

12. **Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on policing in Wales. [134271]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on all matters affecting Wales, including policing.

Antisocial Behaviour

9. **Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister on measures to tackle youth nuisance, graffiti and vandalism in Wales. [134268]

Mr. Hain: I regularly meet the First Minister to discuss a range of issues in Wales, including matters affecting our local environment.

Bilingual Juries

10. **Hywel Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the consultation on bilingual juries in Wales. [134269]

Nick Ainger: The Government have consulted on this issue and an announcement on the outcome of that consultation will be made in due course.

Out-patient Departure Closures

11. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on cross-border issues relating to the closures of out-patient departments. [134270]

Nick Ainger: I regularly meet with the Assembly Minister for Health and Social Services to discuss a range of issues, including cross-border issues.

Health Services

13. **Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on cross-border issues affecting health services in Wales. [134272]

Nick Ainger: I regularly meet with the Assembly Minister for Health and Social Service when we discuss a range of issues, including cross-border issues affecting health services in Wales.

DEFENCE

Anglo-French Battle Groups

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of the proposed UK/French/German Battle Group referred to in the answer of 27 February 2004, *Official Report*, column 614W, on Anglo-French battle groups; and if he will make a statement. [135418]

Mr. Ingram: There are no plans to form a UK/French/German Battle Group, nor have there been in the past.

The UK, France and Germany have however been instrumental in developing the EU Battlegroup concept, which achieved full operational capability in January 2007. EU Battlegroups are small, mobile self-sustaining forces (approximately 1,500 troops) intended for rapid intervention in a crisis, typically in response to a UN request. There are two EU Battlegroups on standby at any time. The UK provided a national Battlegroup on standby during the first half of 2005 and will do so again in 2008. With the Netherlands we have also offered an amphibious Battlegroup in 2010. Each Battlegroup will be on standby for a period of six months.

Armed Forces: Gibraltar

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops are stationed in Gibraltar. [125807]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 8 March 2007]:* As at 31 March 2007, some 350 regular forces personnel were stationed in Gibraltar.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many uniformed *(a)* doctors, *(b)* dentists, *(c)* nurses and *(d)* medical and dental support staff are employed by each armed service. [132852]

Derek Twigg: The number of uniformed doctors, dentists, nurses and medical and support staff who are employed by each single service is shown in the following table:

Service	*Medical officers (which include primary consultants, secondary consultants and GPs)*	*Dental officers*	*Nurses (not including health care assistants)*	*Allied Health Professionals, medical dental support staff*
RN	130	51	290	890
Army	240	130	620	2550
RAF	130	61	430	980

Note:
Figures over 100 are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DMSD

Numbers are correct as of 1 January 2007, and include fully qualified service personnel only.

Army: Northern Ireland

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* general service soldiers, *(b)* full-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service, *(c)* part-time members of the Royal Irish Regiment Home Service, *(d)* full-time soldiers who served with the Ulster Defence Regiment and *(e)* part-time soldiers who served with the Ulster Defence Regiment have their pay adjusted by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body to take into account the relevant benefits of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. [128630]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 751W.

Defence Communication Services Agency: Pay

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the *(a)* last pay raise was and *(b)* next pay raise will be for the staff of the Defence Communication Services Agency. [135361]

Derek Twigg: In line with the Ministry of Defence pay award, the last pay rise awarded to staff within Information Systems and Services—formerly the Defence Communication Services Agency—was on 1 August 2006. This was paid in February 2007 and fully backdated to 1 August 2006. The next pay rise will be due as of 1 August 2007.

Departments: BAE Systems

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons security passes were issued by his Department to *(a)* BAE Systems chief executive Mike Turner, *(b)* former BAE Systems chairman Sir Richard Evans and *(c)* BAE Systems group marketing director Mike Rouse; and if he will list for each of these individuals (i) on which date their current security pass was issued, (ii) on which date their current security pass is due to expire, (iii) to which premises they are given access with their current security pass and (iv) the dates on which any previous security passes were issued by his Department. [132894]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* In respect of MOD's main London buildings (main building, old War Office and St. George's Court) contractor security passes (valid for one year) have not been issued to any of those individuals listed in the question.

MOD passes are issued locally at establishment, business unit, or budget area level. Details of passes issued are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Complaints

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to establish *(a)* a military complaints commission and *(b)* an office of a military ombudsman. [134455]

Derek Twigg: The Armed Forces Act 2006 introduced a package of improvements to the service complaints process including the establishment of an independent Service Complaints Commissioner (SCC). The recruitment process for the position will begin shortly.

In formulating changes to the complaints process, the objective was to introduce independence into the system without undermining the chain of command and its overall responsibilities for the welfare of those under command. While there are no plans to establish a military complaints commission or an office of a military ombudsman, the powers available to the SCC, combined with the other improvements, will offer service personnel a better overall system.

Departments: Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what databases are controlled by his Department and its agencies; and what percentage of the data in each database he estimates is inaccurate or out of date. [124022]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian personnel are employed by his Department in the north-east. [135292]

Derek Twigg: As at 1 January 2007 there were 510 (FTE) civilians employed by this department in the north-east.

Full-time equivalence (FTE) counts part-time staff by the number of hours they work as a proportion of their full-time conditioned hours.

Departments: Publications

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of Joint Service Publication 530 for 2007-08. [133146]

Derek Twigg: Yes. I will provide a draft copy of JSP 530 for financial year 2007-08. The draft contains all the resource account codes for financial year 2007-08, but awaits an update of the textual part of the document describing the usage of the resource account codes. I plan to place the full version of JSP 530 in the Library of the House in June 2007.

European Council

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many EU Council meetings he has attended since taking up his post; and who represents him if he is unable to attend. [133753]

Des Browne *[holding answer 30 April 2007]:* During each six-month presidency, EU Defence Ministers meet once in the format of the General Affairs and External Relations Council. I have attended both such meetings since taking office. Another Minister or senior official would represent me if I were unable to attend.

HMS Cornwall: BBC

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what time and by what means the BBC crew *(a)* were scheduled to leave and *(b)* left HMS Cornwall on 23 March 2007. [134194]

Des Browne: The two BBC personnel and one journalist from *The Independent* left HMS Cornwall, as planned, on the morning of 24 March. They travelled by seaboat to the USS Underwood and then by helicopter to Bahrain, also as planned.

Iran: Territorial Waters

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all coalition personnel involved in the boarding of vessels in Iraqi waters are briefed on the rules of engagement with Iranian forces; and by whom. [132455]

Des Browne: All UK forces deployed on operations in the Operation Telic joint area of operations are briefed on the UK rules of engagement applicable to national and coalition operations, including those involved in the boarding of vessels in Iraqi waters. Personnel are briefed by Commanders both in-theatre and prior to deployment as part of their pre-deployment training.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which country's territorial waters the service personnel detained by the Iranians in 2004 had been captured. [133820]

Des Browne *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* As was made clear at the time, the service personnel who were detained by the Iranians reported that they were operating inside the Iraqi border and were forcibly escorted into Iranian territorial waters.

Lynx Helicopters: Procurement

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the decision to procure the new Lynx helicopter was made; and on whose advice Ministers made the decision. [129447]

Mr. Ingram: The decision to procure the new future Lynx helicopter was taken by MOD Ministers on the basis of advice and recommendations from the MOD Investment Approvals Board. Ministerial approval of the decision was announced on 22 June 2006.

M/V Al Hanin

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what type of boarding ladder the M/V Al Hanin used on 23 March 2007. [134195]

Des Browne: The merchant vessel Al Hanin's own pilot ladder was used.

Peace Keeping Operations: Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the joint operations which UK forces have undertaken with US forces in Iraq since March 2003; and where each such operation took place. [134480]

Des Browne: Operation Telic is the UK contribution to a coalition operation in Iraq which involves a number of countries, including the US and UK, working together to help the Iraqis build a stable, democratic and secure nation. As part of this wider operation UK and US forces regularly operate closely together.

Service Personnel: Media

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 21WS, on Iraq, whether he expects the review team considering issues of media access to serving military personnel *(a)* to investigate and *(b)* to report on the sequence of events leading to the decision to allow some sailors to sell their stories; and whether the identities will be disclosed of the individuals in his Department who took that decision; [134730]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007 to question 132019, *Official Report*, column 1013W, on service personnel: media, if he will give an example of an instance of which his Department is aware of a relative of a serving serviceman or woman selling a second-hand account to a media outlet. [134499]

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the Department played in managing the bids by media organisations for the stories of naval personnel recently seized by the Iranians. [134203]

Des Browne *[holding answers 27 April and 1 May 2007]:* I refer my right hon. Friend and the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 23-26, and my further written statement of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 21-22WS. While the independently-led review of media access to personnel is under way, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further on the issues involved.

Sonar

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which sonar systems *(a)* HMS Daring and *(b)* HMS Dauntless are being fitted. [134726]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* Both HMS Daring and HMS Dauntless will be fitted with the Medium Frequency Sonar 7000 system.

Trident Submarines

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the evidence submitted to the Defence Select Committee in its inquiry into the future of the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent by Professor Richard Garwin, on the timetable for replacement of Trident subenarines. [135012]

Des Browne: The rationale for the timetable for the replacement of the Vanguard-class submarines was set out in the White Paper: The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cm 6994) published on 4 December 2006. The Ministry of Defence provided further detail on the expected life of the Vanguard-class in a letter to the Defence Select Committee dated 1 February 2007, which the Committee published in Volume II of its Ninth Report of Session 2006-07 (Ev 122) on 27 February 2007. I also covered this issue in detail during my evidence session with the Committee on 6 February, a transcript of which was published in the same Report (Ev 57).

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Bankruptcy

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much and what proportion of the total personal consumer debt was written off as a result of the use of individual voluntary arrangements in each of the last five years. [134338]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The extent of any debt written off by means of an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA) is a matter for agreement between the debtor proposing the arrangement and the creditors who must approve it. Such information is not held by Government.

Cuba: Sanctions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations the Government has made to the US authorities on the impact on UK tourists and businesses of the expansion of extra-territorial financial measures against Cuba. [134653]

Mr. McCartney: The European Commission has responsibility within the European Community for dealing with extraterritorial measures taken by third countries against EU member states. Council regulation EC2271/96 (the 'EU blocking statute') was introduced by the EU in 1996 to offer protection to EU individuals and companies against certain specific extraterritorial legislation, including the US Helms/Burton Act which applies sanctions against Cuba.

My officials are in discussion with the European Commission in relation to recent cases of US extraterritoriality in the context of UK trade with Cuba, and the commission is considering how best to take these issues forward.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by his Department. [132193]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Heads of management units are responsible for ensuring that the principles governing hospitality and rules concerning expenditure are followed in their management units and, as is the case for all other expenditure, that an effective system is in place for dealing with claims and accounting for expenditure.

Expenditure on alcohol at public expense is governed by the general principles of financial propriety set out in Government accounting and further guidance is set out in the Department's staff handbook.

Housing: Internet

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* existing and *(b)* new housing stock has access to high speed broadband; and if he will make a statement. [131149]

Margaret Hodge: The information is as follows:

(a) While the Government believe that the delivery of higher bandwidth broadband services is best left to the market, we are working with Ofcom and the industry-led Broadband Stakeholders Group to understand the potential barriers to further investment and how these might be addressed.

(b) DTI works closely with DCLG and built environment stakeholders, including English Partnerships and the Building Research Establishment, to raise awareness of the benefits and practicalities of digital connectivity. Examples of this work include the 'Data Services—Connecting to Homes' guidance for developers, currently in preparation, and the digital access provision (DAP) forum, producing best practice for digital connectivity at the earliest stages of the construction process.

Recycling

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what monitoring his Department undertakes of the eventual disposal of materials exported to China for recycling. [111649]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

There are a range of controls in place to safeguard human health and the environment from exports of waste. All exports of waste from the UK for disposal are generally prohibited. However, certain non-hazardous wastes such as paper, glass and plastic can be exported for recovery or recycling, including to China, provided the wastes are destined for genuine and environmentally sound recovery operations. It is in the Chinese authorities' interest to ensure that imported recyclables are tracked and properly processed in an environmentally sound manner.

It is for waste producers, including local authorities and waste management contractors, to ensure that their waste is properly managed throughout the steps in the recycling chain, including at its final destination. They should assure themselves that exported waste is in compliance with the relevant environmental legislation, including that which applies to waste exports, and the duty of care. In support of this, the Environmental Services Association in the UK recently launched a compliance scheme for exports of recyclable materials, which the Government welcome. The code of practice, which is part of the scheme, includes requirements on members of the scheme to have documented control systems to demonstrate that waste recyclables are recovered under standards broadly equivalent to EU standards.

The Environment Agency (EA) is the competent authority in England and Wales responsible for the regulation and control of transfrontier shipments of waste. The EA has a programme of inspections of sites exporting waste and has taken part in joint enforcement projects with other EU regulators as part of the Sea Ports Projects, which includes detailed monitoring of waste exports from the EU.

In addition, in March 2005, DEFRA wrote to all waste collection and disposal authorities in England reminding them of their responsibilities regarding the export of waste to the EU and other countries.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Ballot Papers

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what criteria were used by the Electoral Commission to select appropriate printers for their approved list to produce ballot papers for the local elections 2007. [135048]

Peter Viggers: Selection of a printer for the production of ballot papers is a responsibility of the relevant Returning Officer. The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not produce an approved list of printers, but its guidance manuals for Returning Officers offer advice on how to approach outsourcing of the production of ballot papers.

Ballot Papers: Derwentside

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will place in the Library a copy of the advice issued to Derwentside district council by the Electoral Commission following the issuing of faulty ballot papers for the local elections 2007; and if he will make a statement. [135047]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has provided no such written advice. The Commission did, however, provide oral advice to Derwentside district council following the discovery of errors in the instruction sheets in the postal ballot packs for the 16 wards with multi-member vacancies. The Commission concurred with the council's proposed response, which was to inform immediately all electors registered as postal voters in the relevant wards, and to offer a replacement ballot pack to any who considered themselves to have been confused by the error.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what involvement the Electoral Commission had in the recent local government restructuring proposals. [134875]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it had no involvement with the Government's original invitation to local authorities to bid for unitary status, nor with the drawing up by the Government of a shortlist of local authorities that it considered likely to meet the criteria. However, as with a number of other organisations, the Commission has since been consulted by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government over the shortlist.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Drinking Water

Mr. Speller: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many *(a)* glass and *(b)* plastic

bottles of water were bought by the House in 2006; and how many were returned to the supplier for re-use. [134878]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons Refreshment Department purchases water in 500ml and one litre bottles for resale and for use in Committees and other meetings. The number of bottles purchased in the financial year 2006-07 was as follows:

Type of bottle	*Number of bottles*
Glass bottles (one litre)	73,813
Plastic bottles (500ml)	159,475

None of these bottles was returned to the supplier for re-use. They are, however, recycled and in the financial year 2006-07 the House sent 174.2 tonnes of glass and 2.7 tonnes of plastic bottles for recycling.

Other Departments purchase 18.5 litre bottles for use in chilled water dispensing machines. These are returned to the supplier for re-use. The number purchased during 2006-07 was 651.

Portcullis House: Energy

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how often Portcullis House has been assessed for its *(a)* energy efficiency and *(b)* carbon emissions; what the trends in performance were; what plans the Commission has to assess Portcullis House in this way; and if he will make a statement. [134645]

Nick Harvey: Portcullis House is assessed on a regular basis both for energy efficiency and carbon emissions. There is a reducing trend for both as can be seen from the following table:

	kWh	*kWh/m2*	*C tonnes*
2003-04	7,493,419	361.7	652.8
2004-05	7,102,707	342.9	623.8
2005-06	7,230,601	349.1	630.2
2006-07	6,882,342	332.2	537.4

All electricity consumed on the parliamentary estate has come from renewable sources since 1 February 2007, therefore there will be no carbon emissions resulting from electricity consumption in future. This has contributed to the reduction in carbon emissions for the year 2006-07.

The Board of Management will consider again next month whether the House should seek to achieve ISO14001 and then eco-management and audit scheme accreditation (EMAS).

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Office was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134060]

Mr. Straw: In the last three years, 100 per cent. of paper used by the Leader of the House of Commons Office for photocopying has been from recycled sources.

Paper used for printed publications complies with the Government's sustainable procurement "quick wins" agenda, which states that "coated papers must contain a minimum of 60 per cent. recycled fibre and uncoated papers 100 per cent. recycled fibre". In practice most papers used comprise at least 75 per cent. recycled fibre for coated and 100 per cent. for uncoated.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many people took sick leave for stress in his Office in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135467]

Mr. Straw: None. They all enjoy working here so much. It is a stress free environment.

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of plans by the National Air Traffic Services for new holding stacks for aircraft in relation to flights from *(a)* Stansted, *(b)* Luton and *(c)* City airport. [135308]

Gillian Merron: No definitive plans have been submitted by NATS for new holding stacks for aircraft in relation to flights from *(a)* Stansted, *(b)* Luton and *(c)* London City airport. Plans for such changes, following full consultation by NATS as the change sponsor, would be submitted to and assessed by the independent aviation regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority, in accordance with the Airspace Change Process:

www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/CAP725.PDF

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most recent estimate is of the percentage contribution of aviation, based on emissions by all aircraft departing from UK airports, and including the radiative forcing effect, to UK climate change emissions. [134036]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 26 April 2007]*: International aviation is not included in the UK's climate change inventory as there is no internationally agreed method for allocating such emissions among states. In 2005 aviation represented 6.3 per cent. of UK emissions, calculated as a proportion of emissions in the UK inventory plus emissions from international aviation and shipping departing the UK. Detailed data may be viewed at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/index.htm.

As the "Future of Air Transport Progress Report" (December 2006) noted, aviation emissions arising

from the combustion of kerosene include carbon dioxide, water vapour, nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide, particulates and other compounds. These give rise to "radiative forcing" impacts. The total radiative impacts were estimated by the EC TRADEOFF project to be approximately twice those of carbon dioxide (excluding cirrus cloud formation).

Using a radiative forcing multiplier of two, emissions from flights departing the UK contributed approximately 13 per cent. of total UK emissions in 2005. However, the figures for non-aviation sources do not include any radiative forcing attributable to them, as conclusive figures are not available.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the percentage of total climate change impact from UK sources contributed by the UK aviation sector, as defined by the Transport White Paper 2004, as a result of radiative forcing; and how that estimate was derived. [133982]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. and learned Gentleman to the response I have given to the hon. Member for East Surrey (Mr. Ainsworth) today (UIN 134036).

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the percentage contribution of aviation to the overall UK climate change impact is, calculated on the basis of emissions attributable to UK citizens on outward and return flights from UK airports, including the radiative forcing effect. [134097]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer given today to his related question (UIN 134036).

There are no equivalent data which relate emissions attributable to UK citizens' travel. The Office for National Statistics International Passenger Survey provides information from surveys of overseas visits by UK residents but this information is not directly related to emissions.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link: Greater London

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what effect he expects the opening of the high speed Channel Tunnel Rail link into St. Pancras to have on capacity on the domestic network. [134789]

Mr. Tom Harris: Opening the Channel Tunnel Rail link into St. Pancras will improve the capacity of the domestic rail network by freeing up train paths used by Eurostar in South London, between Fawkham junction and Waterloo. The international platforms at Waterloo will also be available for domestic use from December 2008 and the new depot at Temple Mills will free up capacity on the west London line, previously used by Eurostar to access the international depot at North Pole. Additionally the Channel Tunnel Rail link itself will provide new capacity for high speed domestic services into London from North and East Kent, which are expected to be introduced in 2009.

Crossrail: Finance

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what shortfall in funding exists between current financial provision for Crossrail and actual project costs; [133403]

(2) when his Department plans to submit its final proposal to HM Treasury for the funding of Crossrail. [133404]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Crossrail project has been allocated a total of £408 million in funding to date, including an additional £154 million that has been recently agreed for ongoing project development. The full cost of the project is projected to be around £15-16 billion in cash prices.

The Department has regular discussions with HM Treasury on many matters. This includes the funding and financing of Crossrail, which will be considered further in the context of Sir Michael Lyon's recommendations on local government finances and wider spending pressures and priorities. However, the affordability challenge represented by the scheme remains significant.

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Ministers in his Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135547]

Gillian Merron: This Government publish an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006 and is available in the Library of the House. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

None of my ministerial colleagues from the Department for Transport have visited India in the last 12 months.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134052]

Gillian Merron: The following tables show the percentage of paper containing recycled content used in each of the last three years:

Percentage of photocopier paper with recycled content

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
DfT(C)	98.01	95.48	95.19
DVLA	100	100	100
DSA	98	98.5	97
GCDA	100	100	100
HA	100	100	100

Percentage of photocopier paper with recycled content

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
MCA	80	80	80
VCA	100	100	100
VOSA	74	77	77

Percentage of paper with recycled content used in printed publications

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
DfT(C)	100	100	100
DVLA	91	73	64
DSA	100	100	100
GCDA	95	95	95
HA	100	100	100
MCA	70	70	70
VCA	90	90	90
VOSA[1]	75	75	75

[1] VOSA priced publications are counted separately using paper which does not include recycled content.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [135003]

Gillian Merron: The Department purchased 36,615,981 kilowatt hours of energy from renewable sources in financial year 2005-06.

East Coast Main Line: Standards

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what performance measures his Department has in place to monitor the quality of service provided on the East Coast Mainline. [135653]

Mr. Tom Harris: GNER measures service quality in terms of both train punctuality and also areas such as train cleanliness, station condition and customer service. Punctuality is monitored on a daily basis by Network Rail, with statistics published by the Office of Rail Regulation. Other areas are audited by GNER and the results reviewed by the Department against Key Performance Benchmarks set for the franchise. The Department also takes note of National Passenger Survey results in order to be assured that GNER service quality to the rail traveller is maintained.

Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether bids to the Transport Innovation Fund will be assessed on their potential contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as their effectiveness in reducing congestion. [135113]

Dr. Ladyman: The environmental impacts of Transport Innovation Fund proposals, including carbon dioxide emissions, will be considered as part of the assessment of TIF bids.

Parking: Fixed Penalties

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the implications of the recent High Court judgment on the issuing of parking tickets by post in London for the extension of the postal penalty notice system throughout the UK. [134873]

Gillian Merron: Although the official transcript of the judgment in TfL *v.* PATAS (interested party—Simeon Ademolake) is not yet available, the Secretary of State is considering the amendments that could be made to the wording of the draft regulations to implement the parking provisions in Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 to cover such a situation.

Petrol: Silicon

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will seek to establish a British Standard for the amount of silicon included in unleaded petroleum; and if he will make a statement. [135111]

Dr. Ladyman: There is no reason to expect a repeat of the recent incident in which fuel was contaminated with silicon. However we will be asking the British Standards Institution to consider, in concert with its European partners, whether revision of EN228, which is the industry standard for premium unleaded petrol, would be appropriate.

Railways: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the relative energy consumption of trains at different speeds. [134879]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department is involved in several research projects assessing how trains use energy. In particular this includes a project commissioned by the Rail Safety and Standards Board into rail traction energy which will compare the energy consumption of different train types that operate at different speeds. I expect the results to be published in the summer.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the degree of overcrowding on UK trains and the resultant effects on those passengers involved; and if he will make a statement. [134556]

Mr. Tom Harris: In 2005 the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB) published a report entitled "The health and safety effects of crowding", which is available on its website, rssb.co.uk. The Office of Rail Regulation's Railway Industry Advisory Committee asked RSSB to consider further the issues identified in the report and this work is under way.

Railways: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what proportion of train stations in Wales have manned ticket kiosks; and if he will make a statement; [135268]

(2) what proportion of train stations in Wales have automated ticket machines; and if he will make a statement. [135269]

Mr. Tom Harris: All railway stations in Wales are operated by Arriva Trains Wales ('ATW'). Under the Welsh rail devolution arrangements, the Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the management of the ATW franchise.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many ticket inspectors were operating on Welsh railway lines in each year since 1992; and if he will make a statement. [134913]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many train stations in Wales have manned ticket kiosks; and if he will make a statement; [134914]

(2) how many train stations in Wales have automated ticket machines installed; and if he will make a statement. [134915]

Mr. Tom Harris: All railway stations in Wales are operated by Arriva Trains Wales ('ATW'). Under the Welsh rail devolution arrangements, the Welsh Assembly Government are responsible for the management of the ATW franchise.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train carriages were in use by train operating companies on railway lines in Wales in each year since 1992; and if he will make a statement. [134916]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested could not be provided without disproportionate cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rail passengers there were in Wales in each year since 1992; and if he will make a statement. [134917]

Mr. Tom Harris: Statistics on number of passengers on the railway network for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in the National Rail Trends Yearbook editions, which are available in the House Library or from their website: www.rail-reg.gov.uk. Figures for earlier years are not held by the Department in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Roads: Construction

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what provisions there are in the transport analysis guidance rules for taking tax implications of new road plans into account. [134636]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department requires an appraisal of the impact of a proposal on public accounts. The relevant guidance document is Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) Unit 3.5.1, available at www.webtag.org.uk, with more technical detail contained in TAG Unit 3.5.3.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much central Government funding has been allocated to *(a)* Suffolk County Council and *(b)* each local authority for road improvements in each year since 1997. [134669]

Gillian Merron: The Department placed in the Library of the House detailed information on the funding allocated to local authorities in the local transport capital settlements between 1997-98 and 2005-06 (inclusive) in response to a written parliamentary question in the other place on th.. 18 January 2006, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column WA122. Similar information was summarised per mile of road in a written response in the other place on 2 February 2006, *Official Report*, House of Lords columns WA77-79.

I also refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 7048-50W, which provided further details of the capital funding provision for Suffolk and a number of other authorities in the Eastern Region.

The local transport capital settlement allocations for all transport authorities in England for 2006-07 are posted on the Department's website:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/capital/ltpdec2005

Those for 2007-08 are posted on the site too:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/capital/ltpsettle06allocationspreadsheet

Rolling Stock: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when his Department expects additional rolling stock to be provided for train services between Bedfordshire and London; and if he will make a statement; [134361]

(2) what plans his Department has to increase capacity on train services between Bedfordshire and London; and if he will make a statement; [134362]

(3) what representations he has received on proposals to provide additional rolling stock on train services between Bedfordshire and London; and if he will make a statement. [134363]

Mr. Tom Harris: This summer, the Government will be publishing their High Level Output Specification (HLOS) for rail services for the period to 2014. This HLOS will include the specification for capacity on the three main routes that serve Bedfordshire—the East Coast, West Coast and Midland main lines.

Traffic Lights

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will investigate the effect on the flow of traffic of a flashing yellow traffic light during off-peak hours. [134877]

Gillian Merron: The Department has no plans to consider adopting flashing yellow traffic signals during off-peak hours. Removing the protection afforded by a red signal leads to concerns for the safety of pedestrians, especially blind or partially sighted pedestrians. The preferred method is for more traffic responsive operation of traffic signals which should lead to reductions in unnecessary delays.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Community Support Officers: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police community support officers have been stationed in Great Yarmouth since 1997; [135214]

(2) how many police officers have been stationed in Great Yarmouth in each year since 1997. [135215]

Mr. Coaker: Data are not collected for the borough of Great Yarmouth; the available data for the requested dates are for the Norfolk police force, and are given in table 1.

Additionally, data are collected for the Eastern Basic Command Unit (BCU) of Norfolk police which contains North Norfolk and Great Yarmouth. These data are available for police officers from 2003 onwards, and are given in table 2; and for police community support officers from 2005 onwards, and are given in table 3.

Police strength data are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales". The latest publication (data as at 31 March 2006) can be downloaded from:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1306.pdf

Table 1: police officer and police community support officer strength[1] (FTE) by Norfolk police force as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2006[2]

31 March:	Police Officers[3]	Norfolk PCSOs[4]
1997	1,432	n/a
1998	1,430	n/a
1999	1,381	n/a
2000	1,381	n/a
2001	1,420	n/a
2002	1,468	n/a
2003	1,499	12
2004	1,510	33
2005	1,544	68
2006	1,557	65

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03.
[3] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with earlier years figures).
[4] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Table 2: police officer strength[1] (FTE) by Eastern Basic Command Unit of Norfolk police force as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2006[2]

31 March:	Eastern BCU Police officers[3]
2003	384
2004	389
2005	377
2006	381

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data are not available prior to 2002-03.
[3] Full-time equivalent includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Table 3: police community support officer strength[1] (FTE) by Eastern Basic Command Unit of Norfolk police force as at 30 June 2005 to 30 June 2006[2]

	Eastern BCU PCSOs
30 June 2005	24
30 June 2006	39

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] This collection was undertaken by the Home Office Police Human Resources Unit and does not form part of the "Police Service Strength" statistical series.

Custodial Treatment: Courts

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions (defined as one prisoner night) prisoners were housed in court cells between 1 January 2006 and 1 April 2007. [133975]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Court cells were used on 33 occasions between 1 January 2006 and 1 April 2007.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the number and proportion of offences that were drug-related in *(a)* Darlington, *(b)* County Durham and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [135013]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Data collected centrally on recorded crime do not identify whether any offences (other than drug offences as defined by law) are drug related. The recorded crime series does include the number of specific drug offences and these are given in the following table.

Table 1: drug offences recorded by the police 2001-02

	Number of offences
Darlington	229
Durham	1,317
England	111,968

Table 2: drug offences recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2005-06

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Darlington	211	220	230	302
Durham	1,289	1,205	1,062	1,299
England	130,825	131,551	133,140	165,842

Note:
The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Extradition

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will give details of each extradition request by a foreign Government which has been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused in each of the last five years. [134971]

Joan Ryan: For the purposes of this reply a copy of the table has been placed in the Library. The table has assumed that the details required in the question are the requesting country and the year of extradition, or the year in which the case was closed for other reasons. The figures exclude:

(i) any requests which may have been closed before arrests for extradition took place;

(ii) any requests made to Scotland or Northern Ireland, which are matters for the Scotland Office and Northern Ireland Office respectively; and

(iii) any requests made under the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) mechanism as these are made by the judicial authorities of other European Union member states rather than by foreign governments.

European Union member states entered the EAW on the following dates:

1 January 2004—Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom;

27 July 2004—Austria, Cyprus, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia;

1 March 2005—Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Slovakia; and

28 July 2005—Italy.

Finally, it should be noted that the requests to which the figures relate will in many cases have been made in earlier years than those in which the resulting extraditions took place or in which the cases were closed.

HM Prison Coldingley

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the recovery of *(a)* drugs and *(b)* pornographic material at HM Prison Coldingley earlier this month; what estimate he has made of the street value of the recovery of each; what mechanism was used in the transportation of this contraband into the prison establishment; what steps he plans to take to tighten (i) searching and (ii) monitoring arrangements at the prison establishment; and what assessment he has made of the (A) competency of staff and (B) adequacy of resources in the security department at the prison establishment in preventing contraband from being transported into the establishment. [135106]

Mr. Sutcliffe: On 15 March a quantity of drugs, mobile phones and DVDs were found following an intelligence led search. This find was as a result of a joint operation with Surrey police. The police estimate the street price of the drugs at £6,000 to £7,000. The staff involved in this operation have been commended for their actions and the resources available to ensure a positive response to the supply of controlled drugs are kept under review. For reasons of security, and to maximise the possibility of future finds, it would not be appropriate to comment further.

Identity Cards: Fraud

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of companies advertising and selling fake identity cards over the internet; and if he will make a statement. [132134]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are aware that there are certain websites which offer to sell fake identity cards, and that there is a concern that young people may try and use them to purchase alcohol unlawfully. It is, of course, illegal to sell alcohol to under-18s. It is the responsibility of retailers to have adequate procedures in place and appropriate training for staff, if they wish to have a licence to sell alcohol.

Many retailers have now adopted a 'Think 21' policy, where anyone appearing to be under 21 should be asked for identification prior to any sale of alcohol, which will prevent an offence being committed. Valid forms of identification include a passport or a driving licence with a photo. The Home Office also supports the Proof of Age Standards (PASS) scheme, which establishes a common standard for issuing the various proof of age cards that are available. PASS accredited cards carry a secure hologram which helps retailers to identify genuine proof of age cards. Following on from the success of the Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns, in May 2007 we will be conducting a national Tackling Under Age Sales of Alcohol Campaign, which will test whether or not retailers ask for valid identification from potential underage purchasers of alcohol.

Naturalisation Test

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of people were successful in the Life in the UK naturalisation test in each month since November 2005. [130020]

John Reid: The number and percentage of candidates who have been successful in the Life in the UK test in each month since November 2005 is set out in the table.

Success in the test does not guarantee that an applicant will be granted citizenship (or, from 2 April 2007, settlement) as other factors will be taken into account in making a decision.

	Passes	Pass rate (percentage)
November 2005	2,066	72.7
December 2005	2,926	69.0
January 2006	5,042	69.2
February 2006	6,933	70.1
March 2006	8,781	69.1
April 2006	7,526	69.2

	Passes	Pass rate (percentage)
May 2006	8,436	67.9
June 2006	8,575	67.3
July 2006	8,527	67.4
August 2006	9,417	67.9
September 2006	11,764	67.1
October 2006	11,501	66.7
November 2006	10,856	66.1
December 2006	8,055	65.8
January 2007	11,754	67.8
February 2007	14,282	70.0
Total since November 2005	136,441	68.0

Offenders: Employment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of (i) men and (ii) women leaving prison who had a job to go to; and what the equivalent figures were (A) 10 and (B) 20 years ago. [134012]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is not currently available in the specific format requested. HM Prison Service collects the total number of prisoners who have education, training or employment (ETE) secured upon release. This data are supplied in the following table for the last two financial years, broken down by gender, along with the prison system target for this measure. ETE information was not collected in the current format before April 2002.

Total ETE outcomes for 2005-06 and 2006-07

	Total ETE outcomes			System ETE target
	Female	Male	Total	
2005-06	1804	41074.5	42878.5	
2006-07[1]	1642.5	37244.05	38887	

[1] Data for 2006-07 are provisional

Outcomes include those who attended Freshstart appointments at Jobcentre Plus, whereby prisoners who do not have a job or training place to go to on release are linked into employment, training and benefits advice and support immediately after release.

Freshstart interview attendance data for February and March 2007 have not yet been received.

HM Prison Service is implementing new systems to ensure the specific information requested is available for the 2007-08 financial year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of *(a)* the re-offending rates of those who find a job on leaving prison and *(b)* those who do not. [134013]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No assessment has been made to date of the re-offending rates of those who find a job on leaving prison or of those who do not have a job on release. However, work is currently underway to analyse the findings of three resettlement surveys of prisoners conducted at the point of release and this will provide such an assessment. Findings from this work should be available by the autumn of 2007 and published on the RDS NOMS website.

Prison Service: Corruption

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the value of fraudulent expense claims made by HM Prison Service staff in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available; what disciplinary action was taken against individuals involved; and if he will make a statement. [134706]

Mr. Sutcliffe: During the 24 months to 31 March 2007, there were seven cases of fraudulent expense claims formally investigated, detailed in the table

Fraudulent Expense Claims

During the 24 months to 31 March 2007, there were 7 cases of fraudulent expense claims formally investigated, detailed in the table below.

Month	Number of cases	Amount Investigated (£)	Disciplinary outcome
April 2005	1	69.05	Dismissal
February 2006	2	1,967.95	2 Resignations
July 2006	2	677.00	1 Written warning 1 Dismissal
October 2006	1	195.50	Final written warning
March 2007	1	1,972.11	Disciplinary hearing being conducted

Prison Service: Standards

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1520W, on prison service: standards, how many *(a)* area professional standards managers, *(b)* local professional standards managers and *(c)* their deputies are in post; what proportion of them were fully trained by February; and if he will make a statement. [134760]

Mr. Sutcliffe: 13 area professional standards managers and 128 local professional standards managers were in post in February 2007. It is not mandatory to appoint a deputy local professional standards manager, although many establishments have a deputy in post. By February 2007 all 13 area professional standards managers had received training along with 216 prison staff.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 March

2007, *Official Report*, column 1520W, on prison service: standards, in what circumstances an HM Prison Service commissioning officer may withhold *(a)* the investigation report and *(b)* parts of the investigation report from an individual being charged under the disciplinary code; and if he will make a statement. [134809]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The commissioning authority may withhold all or part of a report if disclosure to an individual facing allegations under the code of discipline is considered to threaten the safety of staff or prisoners, or the good order of an establishment. The specific circumstances under which a report, or part of a report, may be withheld are listed in PSO 1300 Investigations paragraph 3D 8.1.

Prisoners: Medical Treatments

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the average waiting time between assessment of a prisoner and subsequent transfer to a hospital for physical or mental care. [133978]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Prisoners who are assessed as requiring treatment in hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 should be so transferred within 12 weeks of the responsible national health service organisation receiving the referral. A reduced waiting time standard of two weeks is currently being piloted.

For hospital appointments, Prison Service Order 3050, continuity of care for prisoners, sets out what prison governors must do to ensure prisoners receive timely clinical interventions and treatment. A copy has been placed in the Library. It is also available on the HM Prison Service website at:

http://pso.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/PSO_3050_continuity_of_healthcare_for_prisoners.doc

Prisons: Greater London

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints have been received by the new London area manager of HM Prison Service from staff about *(a)* corruption, *(b)* misconduct and *(c)* management failure; and if he will make a statement. [134722]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The area manager for London has received three complaints from staff about alleged managerial failures since taking up post.

Prisons: Misconduct

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the conclusions of the inquiry into misconduct of senior officers in the segregation unit at HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs were considered during the process of appointing the new governor at HM Prison Whitemoor; and if he will make a statement. [135105]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The conclusions of the inquiry into the misconduct of senior officers in the segregation unit at HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs were not considered during the process of appointing the Governor of HM Prison Whitemoor.

Prisons: Security

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources he has made available to each *(a)* prison establishment and *(b)* the Professional Standards Unit to reduce the level of trafficking of contraband in the financial year 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [134709]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are 13 Area Professional Standards Managers, 128 Local Professional Standards Managers, a central Professional Standards Unit of 13 staff. In addition, there are ongoing developments to the types of equipment and training available to staff to detect contraband or improve the use of intelligence.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the *(a)* competency and experience of staff and *(b)* adequacy of resources of security departments within prison establishments in the (i) prevention and (ii) detection of contraband; and if he will make a statement. [134841]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is the responsibility of HM Prison Service (for public sector prisons) and individual providers (for contracted sector prisons) to ensure that security departments are appropriately staffed and operate effectively. It is the responsibility of the National Offender Management Service to monitor the performance of providers (both contracted and public sector) and to ensure that this is acceptable across all areas of work involving security.

Prisons: Surveillance

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average number of Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act *(a)* requests and *(b)* authorisations was in each prison establishment in England and Wales per week for targeted surveillance of (i) social visits and (ii) other activity in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [134756]

Mr. Sutcliffe: For operational security reasons, it would be inappropriate to provide the information requested.

Rape: Convictions

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the conviction rate was for rape cases in 2006; [132240]

(2) how many rape prosecutions where DNA or other forensic evidence was used led to *(a)* a conviction and *(b)* an acquittal in each of the last three years. [132241]

John Reid: Court proceedings (including rape convictions) for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Information on whether DNA evidence was used to bring about a conviction to court is not available as the individual circumstance of a case are not held centrally.

Tasker Inquiry

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the terms of reference of the Tasker inquiry have been *(a)* amended and *(b)* altered; how many interim reports have been produced during the lifetime of the inquiry; when the most recent interim report was produced; what the reason is for the most recent delay to the completion of the inquiry; how many extensions to the inquiry have been authorised; and if he will make a statement. [134695]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The commissioning authority has formally amended the terms of reference once, at the request of one of the complainants.

No interim reports have been published. A partial report has been submitted to the commissioning authority. The delay in completion of the investigation has been caused by the breadth of the terms of reference, and the scale and complexity of the ensuing investigation.

No formal extensions have been granted. The commissioning authority has been kept informed of the progress of the investigation throughout, and has accepted the revised timeframe.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* target completion date was when first commissioned and *(b)* actual completion date is expected to be of the Tasker inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [134719]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The initial target date for completion was March 2006. This proved to be unrealistic given the scale of the investigation, and the investigation is now due to be completed in the near future.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which member of HM Prison Service Board will have responsibility for *(a)* considering the content, *(b)* overseeing appropriate disciplinary action and *(c)* addressing the issues that may arise from the report by Mr Ron Tasker into the conduct of the previous Governor at HM Prison Wandsworth; and if he will make a statement. [134840]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service area manager for London is the commissioning authority and as such will have responsibility for considering the content of the report, overseeing any disciplinary action that may be deemed necessary, and addressing any other issues that may arise. The area manager for London may seek to discuss these matters with his line manager who is the Deputy Director General of the Prison Service.

Terrorism: Birmingham

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether an individual in his Department was responsible for briefing journalists that two soldiers had offered to entrap the suspects at the centre of the Birmingham counter-terrorism operation of 31 January. [135399]

John Reid: I have no knowledge of who provided this information. It was not released by me, nor my special advisers nor anyone close to me, nor anyone else with either my knowledge or acquiescence.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefits: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much council tax benefit was unclaimed in each London borough in each of the last five years. [135008]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of take-up are not available below the level of Great Britain. The latest estimates of the take-up of the main income-related benefits: income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based) in Great Britain can be found in the DWP report entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2004/2005". Copies of the publication are available in the Library.

Departments: Handbooks

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 630W, on departments: handbooks, if he will place in the Library a CD-Rom containing the details of the terms and conditions of service for staff of his Department. [133922]

Mrs. McGuire: Development of Conditions of Service policies in DWP is a continuous evolutionary process. A number of the corporate policies also take the form of policy frameworks, stating broad principles within which individual DWP businesses are permitted to develop their own Conditions of Service policies according to the services they deliver.

The effect of this is that a CD-Rom of the Conditions of Service material would only be accurate, relevant and up-to-date on the day it was created, and would not have the functionality to link to other sources of information referred to within the policy material or to business specific policy material.

Therefore while there are no plans to place a CD-ROM in the Library Members who want access to specific Conditions of Service policies should contact: Kevin White, DWP's Human Resources Director General about corporate policies or the relevant business Chief Executive in constituent specific cases, and request a CD-ROM of the specific policy material.

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Ministers in his Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135545]

Mrs. McGuire: There were no visits made by any of the Department's Ministers to India in the last 12 months.

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134818]

Mrs. McGuire: The information currently held centrally by the Department is the number of complaints of bullying investigated by the Departments central team of investigators.

During the last 12 months (for the period April 2006 to March 2007) the Department for Work and Pensions central team of investigators has received 102 complaints of bullying of which 32 were upheld.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [135005]

Mrs. McGuire: On 12 June 2006 the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced a set of sustainable operations targets for the Government Estate. These targets included mandating Government Departments to source at least 10 per cent. of electricity from renewable sources, such as wind, wave, tidal, solar, thermal and photovoltaics (PVs), by March 2008.

During 2005-06 DWP sourced 206,087,269 kilowatt hours of electricity from renewable sources. This equates to 62.9 per cent. of the total DWP consumption of 327,460,763 kilowatt hours of electricity during the year.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135384]

Mrs. McGuire: The information currently held centrally by the Department is the number of complaints of sexual harassment investigated by the Department's central team of investigators.

During the last 12 months (for the period April 2006 to March 2007) the Department for Work and Pensions central team of investigators has received 20 complaints of sexual harassment of which 13 were upheld.

Departments: Statistics

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the quarterly statistical summary costs to produce in each of the last four quarters. [133902]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the cost of producing the quarterly statistical summary is not available.

Estimates for the annual costs of national statistics are contained in the relevant national statistics annual report and accounts, which are available on the national statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1051.

The last year these were produced was 2004-05.

Departments: Surveys

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the results of each staff survey in his Department in each of the last five years. [133900]

Mrs. McGuire: Over the last five years, DWP has routinely published its staff survey results within the public domain. Survey results have been supplied to main Libraries in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as well as those in Oxford and Cambridge. Last year, following a request from Nicola Beckford, BBC Political Programmes, Cabinet Office arranged for direct access to all main Government Departments' survey results through the civil service website. DWP Survey 2004 and 2005 results can already be accessed there. Results for DWP Survey 2006 will also appear there shortly. In addition, DWP is making separate arrangements to place its staff survey results, since 2002, on the DWP website.

Grandparents: Parental Responsibility

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 866W, on grandparents: parental responsibility, for what reasons the information is not available; and if he will take steps to make it available. [135112]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information about the family relationship between a claimant and any dependant children is not needed for the assessment of income-related benefit claims, so it is not recorded. We have no plans to change this.

Housing Benefit: Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on housing benefit, what amendments were made to his proposed changes to the housing benefit subsidy arrangements for homeless households following his Department's meetings with the local authority associations in August, November and December 2006 and January 2007. [133735]

Mr. Plaskitt: The changes were a short-term measure to address the very large increase in expenditure on temporary accommodation and longer term proposals to change the funding scheme for temporary accommodation in the future. No amendments were made to the changes after meeting with Local Authority Associations.

Housing Benefit: Temporary Accommodation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1238W, on housing benefit, what the average cost was of non-housing revenue account expenditure on each homeless household in temporary accommodation in each year since 1997-98 *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* at 2006-07 prices. [133736]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

IT Projects

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Twickenham of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1239W, on IT projects, what the purpose was of the benefits processing replacement programme (BPRP); how it was related to the customer accounting and payment strategy; and through what new programme he expects some of the spend on the BPRP to be of future value. [134149]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Gentleman with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 2 May 2007

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the benefits processing replacement programme (BPRP) and the customer accounting and payment strategy (CAPS). This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

BPRP was launched in November 2004 to develop a replacement for our legacy IT systems, which calculate benefit payments in Jobcentre Plus and the Disability and Carers Service. CAPS was a much earlier Departmental IT programme with the aim of developing and implementing a replacement for the order book payment system. This would have provided customers with a single payment account and a smart card to access their benefit payments through the Post Office network. There is no connection between the two programmes.

We expect that a substantial part of the investment in BPRP will be of future benefit to the Department. For example, software licences and a testing and development environment have already been of benefit to other IT projects in Jobcentre Plus, and will be of use as we develop IT support for the employment and support allowance. Additionally, some of the planning and design work undertaken by BPRP will be of value to Jobcentre Plus in taking forward our IT Strategy.

I hope this is helpful.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to the letter of 13 March from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on the Disability Discrimination Act. [134724]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 30 April 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Gentleman's letter on 26 April 2007.

New Deal Schemes: Self-employed

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what projection he has made of the number of people likely to go through the new deal self-employment programme in the next 12 months; and how many went through it in each of the last three years; [125884]

(2) what the cost is to the public purse of an unemployed person returning to work under *(a)* the new deal self-employment programme and *(b)* other employment programmes. [125893]

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people completed the new deal self-employment programme in the last three years for which figures are available. [126061]

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people are expected to participate in the new deal self-employment programme in 2007-08; and how many people participated in the programme in each of the last three years; [126537]

(2) what assessment he has made of the cost to the public purse for an unemployed person to return to work under the new deal self-employment programme compared with other employment programmes; [126538]

(3) whether his Department has assessed the relative rates at which participants return to work under the new deal self-employment programme compared with other employment programmes. [126618]

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people are expected to pass through the new deal self-employment programme in 2007; and what the figure was in each of the last three years; [124686]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the relative merits of returning to work under the new deal self-employment programme compared with other employment programmes. [124687]

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the relative benefits to *(a)* Government and *(b)* unemployed people of returning to work under the new deal self-employment programme and other employment programmes; [125769]

(2) how many people he expects to go through the new deal self-employment programme in 2007-08; and how many went through in each of the previous three years; [125772]

(3) how much it costs the public purse on average for an unemployed person to return to work under *(a)* the new deal self-employment programme and *(b)* other employment programmes. [125779]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of an unemployed person returning to work under *(a)* the new deal self-employment programme and *(b)* other employment programmes; [126843]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to go through the new deal self-employment programme in 2007; and how many went through the programme in each of the last three years; [126844]

(3) whether his Department has assessed the relative effectiveness of returning to work under the new deal self-employment programme and other employment programmes. [126874]

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether he has estimated the cost to the public purse of assisting an unemployed person to return to work under the *(a)* new deal self-employment programme and *(b)* other employment programmes; [127435]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to participate in the new deal self-employment programme in the next 12 months; and how many people participated in each of the previous three years. [127436]

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the new deal self-employment programme at returning people to work compared with other employment programmes. [129256]

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the new deal self-employment programme; and if he will make a statement. [130400]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Members to the written answer I gave on 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1184-86W.

Personal Capability Assessments

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1056W, on personal capability assessments, who owns the LiMA software. [134249]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Logic integrated Medical Assessment (LiMA) computer program is used by Atos Origin Medical Services and supports doctors carrying out disability assessments on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. The DWP hold copyright and intellectual property rights over the program and license a third party—Atos Origin Medical Services—to use, customise, distribute, incorporate, market, maintain, support, sell and sub-license LiMA in return for payment of a royalty to the DWP.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department plans to provide to *(a)* A2 and (b) A8 nationals in 2007-08; and what the estimated cost is of providing this support. [134317]

Mr. Jim Murphy: For details of the support available to A2 and A8 nationals, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written answer given on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 274W.

The information on cost is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Correspondence

Frank Cook: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many mail items were sent by those bodies that award *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* housing benefit, *(c)* income support, *(d)* jobseeker's allowance, *(e)* incapacity benefit, *(f)* council tax benefit and *(g)* state pension for each of the last five years; how many of these were sent to deceased individuals; what arrangements are in place to ensure that the databases of these organisations are updated with details of individuals who have moved house; and if he will make a statement. [132016]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information requested is listed in the following table. Housing and council tax benefit are awarded by the claimant's local authority and therefore, are not included in the table. The information is extracted from management information held by the Department's two Regional Delivery Centres and does not include numbers of mail items sent from the Department's local offices about these benefits as this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only by disproportionate cost.

Volume	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
(a) Pension credit	3,053,168	9,601,349	16,826,461	14,595,985	11,694,195
(c) Income support	40,579,060	36,211,335	25,970,123	21,882,796	21,575,397
(d) Jobseeker's allowance	36,731,443	33,285,018	26,238,083	19,584,809	19,806,068
(e) Incapacity benefit	15,082,958	12,306,938	11,357,700	9,214,905	9,860,895
(g) State pension	26,305,633	25,399,385	24,973,194	19,251,923	26,755,872

The information about how many mail items were sent to deceased individuals is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The Department has processes in place to collect death notifications from the Office for National Statistics (for England and Wales), the General Registrar (Scotland) and the General Registrar (Northern Ireland) on a weekly basis in order to update records. However, many notifications are received from the next of kin in advance of the notification from the Registrars. As part of the Office for National Statistics Modernisation Programme, dates of death will be notified to the Department on a daily basis from March 2008 which should ensure the level of notifications sent to deceased individuals by the Department is minimised.

The Department received over 18.5 million notifications of change of address in 2006, relating to the actual number of individuals who have moved. For example if a family consisting of man, wife and two children changed address, we would expect to receive four changes to personal details, if the children were the subjects of a child benefit claim. Every effort is made to ensure databases are updated with change of address details as soon as they are received.

Temporary Accommodation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on housing benefit: homelessness, if his Department will require local authorities to increase their General Fund contribution to the costs of placing homeless households in temporary accommodation. [133734]

Mr. Plaskitt: There is no requirement for local authorities to increase the contribution from the General Fund when placing homeless households in temporary accommodation.

Temporary Accommodation: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on housing benefit: homelessness, whether his Department has assessed Westminster city council's ability to procure short-term leased temporary accommodation for homeless households within its area following the introduction of his proposed changes to housing benefit subsidy arrangements in 2007-08. [133733]

Mr. Plaskitt: No assessment was done of the procurement of short term leased accommodation in Westminster city council's area. The changes introduced in April 2007 to the subsidy scheme for temporary accommodation were a modest reduction in the available subsidy and should not have an impact on an authority's ability to secure temporary accommodation.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Arts: Grants

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking through the spending review to improve provisions for the arts in Northern Ireland following the reduction in Lottery funding from 2009. [134813]

Maria Eagle: Negotiations on the comprehensive spending review are at an early stage. The outcome will be known later this year.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what in-year financial monitoring returns and adjustments for the Northern Ireland departments were made in 2006-07; and what *(a)* slippages, *(b)* easements and *(c)* pressures identified and re-allocations have been made. [132491]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested has been placed in the Library of the House.

Health Professions: Training

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applicants in Northern Ireland are in the process of applying for posts via modernising medical careers; how many posts are available in Northern Ireland; and how many such posts in the 2007 round are for *(a)* specialist training and *(b)* fixed-term specialist training appointments. [135535]

Paul Goggins: Current figures show that there have been 2,559 applications for posts in Northern Ireland. Many applicants have applied for more than one post A detailed breakdown of applications per applicant is not currently available.

By August 2007 there will be:

(a) 406 Specialist training posts; and

(b) 211 Fixed term specialist training posts.

Hospitals: Hygiene

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 891-92W, on hospitals: hygiene, how much of the £400,000 funding provided in 2006-07 each hospital trust in Northern Ireland accessed to run hand hygiene/clean care campaigns; what the nature was of each campaign; and what assessment has been made of their effectiveness. [134892]

Paul Goggins: I have placed a detailed report on the matter raised by the hon. Gentleman in the Library.

Housing: Low Incomes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to provide affordable housing in Northern Ireland. [135036]

Mr. Hanson: Government are dealing with the issue of affordable housing principally through the social housing development programme, the co-ownership shared equity scheme, the house sales scheme for social tenants and the housing benefit system.

The social housing development programme last year provided an additional 1,625 new homes, funded by Government grant of some £132 million supplemented by housing association private borrowing.

The co-ownership shared equity scheme has assisted almost 19,000 households into home ownership since 1978; with more than half a billion pounds of public and private funds invested. Recent changes, such as increasing the property value limits and reducing the rental charge on the shared equity portion of the property, have made the scheme more accessible for those on low incomes.

The right to buy scheme, offering social houses for sale to tenants at a discount, has facilitated some 120,000 tenants into home ownership.

Last year, over £386 million was paid to those in receipt of housing benefit. Over 70,000 of recipients were in social housing and almost 62,000 were in private housing.

In April 2007, I received Sir John Semple's review into affordable housing. This report made a series of practical suggestions across a range of policy areas. These proposals are now being considered.

Junior Doctors: Unemployment

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of junior doctors working in the NHS in Northern Ireland who will be unemployed in August. [134957]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to determine at this stage how many doctors working in Northern Ireland will not obtain post in NI.

Junior Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding was available before August 2006 for the provision of additional doctors to ensure that junior doctors' working rotas would be compliant with the European Working Time Directive. [134961]

Paul Goggins: In 2006-07 the Department allocated funding to the Junior Doctors Implementation Support Group (ISG). ISG assigned £5.5 million of

this budget to assist Boards and HPSS Trusts in achieving European Working Time Directive (EWTD) compliance. This included provision for the recruitment of additional doctors.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps have been taken to ensure that sufficient junior doctors are employed in Northern Ireland to enable all their working rotas to be compliant with the European Working Time Directive in August 2007. [134966]

Paul Goggins: The revised recruitment arrangements agreed in April are aimed at ensuring foil recruitment to all junior doctors' posts for August 2007 thus ensuring the maintenance of codes of compliance with the European Working Time Directive (EWTD).

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the career structure for junior doctors in Northern Ireland from August 2007 on *(a)* waiting lists for outpatients appointments and *(b)* waiting lists for elective surgery. [134967]

Paul Goggins: An assessment on the impact of the career structure for junior doctors and its impact on outpatient and elective surgery waiting lists has not been made.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps were taken to ensure that sufficient medical staff would be available to maintain a high standard of patient care during the first round of Medical Training Application Service interviews in Northern Ireland. [134978]

Paul Goggins: Trust chief executive, medical and clinical directors and HR directors were notified of the timeline for recruiting doctors to speciality training, in order to ensure that arrangements could be made for the release of panel members and candidates to attend interviews.

Maze Project

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his estimate is of what further expenditure on the Maze project will be before the end of 2007; and how much will be spent on *(a)* consultancy fees, *(b)* staff costs and *(c)* facilitating the work of the Maze Panel. [134072]

Mr. Hanson: Estimated expenditure in 2007-08 on the full Maze/Long Kesh programme (including stadium costs) is some £7.6 million.

Of this, £4.1 million is estimated for consultancy fees and £0.4 million for staff costs. The costs of the Maze/Long Kesh Monitoring Group are limited to travel and attendance fees, which last year cost around £2,000.

All expenditure post 8 May will be a matter for the local Executive.

Medical Training Application Service

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the outcome of the first round of Medical Training Application Service interviews in Northern Ireland to be known. [134955]

Paul Goggins: The last date of speciality interviews is 31 May. All job offers for speciality training programmes and fixed term speciality training appointments will be made by 7 June 2007.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he will take to provide assistance to junior doctors in Northern Ireland who are not successful in the round 1 Medical Training Application Service interviews. [134956]

Paul Goggins: Career advice and support will be offered to all candidates not successful in round 1.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) whether doctors in Northern Ireland who have completed a 12-month fixed term specialty training appointment at year 1 may apply for a specialist training year 1 post in the same specialty in August 2008; [134958]

(2) what estimate he has made of the percentage of doctors appointed to a fixed term specialty training appointment year 1 post in August 2007 in Northern Ireland who are expected to progress to a specialist training year 2 post in the same specialty and unit of application in August 2008. [134959]

Paul Goggins: Doctors who are appointed to fixed term training appointments from August 2007 will be able to apply for speciality training programmes where vacancies occur and in keeping with the 2008 person specification.

Opportunities to progress will be determined by posts becoming available either through vacancies or a reconfiguration of training opportunities.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the proportion of junior doctors' time which has been used for *(a)* activities related to modernising medical careers and *(b)* providing a service for patients in the last 12 months. [134960]

Paul Goggins: A series of workshops were organised to advise experienced SHOs and foundation trainees about MMC and the new recruitment process. These were run outside normal working hours to ensure least disruption to the service. Year 2 foundation trainees are required to attend a 10 day regional generic skills programme, which is deducted from their study leave entitlement.

Trainees are entitled to study leave and annual leave in accordance with the terms and conditions of service and consistent with maintaining essential services. On-site training of doctors and the provision of a service to patients are inextricably linked therefore it is not possible to extract this information.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what criteria other than interview performance are used in Northern Ireland to select doctors for run through training to become consultants; [134963]

(2) what the average duration has been of Medical Training Application Service round 1 interviews in each speciality in Northern Ireland; [134964]

(3) whether candidates' Medical Training Application Service application forms will be taken into account when selecting individuals for speciality training and fixed term speciality training appointments for August 2007. [134965]

Paul Goggins: For selection to the run through training programme, candidates complete a 30 minute interview, in addition to providing copies of references, a training portfolio and evidence of acquired clinical and academic skills. Panel members will have access to all relevant documentation including the candidate's application form.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps were taken to ensure that applicants in Northern Ireland would not be aware of clinical scenarios raised in the first round of Medical Training Application Service interviews prior to their interview in March. [134977]

Paul Goggins: All interview questions and clinical scenarios were kept secure and confidential by panel members and the small number of deanery staff involved in the interview process.

Out-Patients: Attendance

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many missed *(a)* hospital and *(b)* general practitioner appointments there were in each of the health boards in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [135351]

Paul Goggins: The total number of missed hospital appointments in each financial year 2001-02 to 2005-06 is provided in the following table. These figures represent the number of outpatient appointments where a patient did not attend and failed to give advanced warning to the hospital.

Health board	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
EHSSB	131,449	128,293	128,766	123,672	125,143
NHSSB	23,587	23,019	22,677	22,472	23,355
SHSSB	31,624	29,066	28,812	26,879	24,617
WHSSB	25,153	23,592	24,554	24,715	26,893
NI Total	211,813	203,970	204,809	197,738	200,008

Note:
Data for the financial year 2006-07 will be published in July 2007.
Data are disaggregated by Health Board of provider Trust.
Source:
Departmental Return KH09.

The Department does not hold information on missed appointments at GP surgeries. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pension Credit

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications for pension credit were made in Northern Ireland between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2007; how many have been processed; and how many are outstanding. [135341]

Mr. Hanson: The Pension Service received 18,335 claims for pension credit between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2007. A separate figure for pension credit claims for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 is not available. Management information systems were not available at this time.

The Pension Service processed 19,088 applications between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2007. This figure includes some applications, which were carried forward from the previous year. A separate figure for pension credit claims processed for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 is not available. Management information systems were not available at this time.

At 30 April 2007 the total number of pension credit claims outstanding was 1,854. This includes claims which have to be previewed to check all information has been received, those where we have asked customers for further information and those with all the required information to enable a decision to be taken.

Pensions

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his estimate is of the number of people in Northern Ireland making *(a)* no provision and *(b)* insufficient provision for retirement pension; and what percentage of the workforce these figures represent. [134812]

Mr. Hanson: Results from the Family Resources Survey 2005-06 show that 28,500 people (4.2 per cent. of the Northern Ireland work force) have no provision for state pension, 337,500 people (49.4 per cent. of the work force) have no provision for private pensions and 21,500 people (3.1 per cent. of the work force) have no provision for either state pension or private pensions.

The figures to enable an estimate to be made of the percentage of the work force in Northern Ireland making insufficient provision for retirement pension are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Notes:

1. Figures refer to persons from working age 20 to state pension age who are either full or part-time employed (whether employees or self-employed) and do not include those not working.

2. Estimates are taken from the Family Resources Survey 2005-06 which is the latest year for which data are available. The estimates of numbers are less robust than the estimates of percentages.

3. Members who are contributing to a private pension scheme include those who are building up rights within a salary related scheme, those who are currently contributing to a scheme or whose employer makes a contribution on their behalf. Private pension refers to an occupational, personal or stakeholder pension scheme.

4. Individuals who contribute to both occupational and personal schemes are counted only once in these estimates.

Pensions: Information Services

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of work undertaken by Social Security Agency pension advisers; if he will take steps to retain the pension advisers employed by the Social Security Agency; and if he will make a statement. [135340]

Mr. Hanson: While no formal assessment has been undertaken of the Social Security Agency's pension advisers, they successfully met their performance targets for 2006-07. The agency is currently assessing the resources required to ensure that the needs of older people are met.

The agency recognises that older people are a vulnerable customer group and that pension advisers play an important role in meeting their needs. The agency remains committed to ensuring that older people can access information and advice on benefit related issues and will continue to offer a pension adviser service.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many attacks on school teachers there were in schools in each education and library board area of Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [135352]

Maria Eagle: The Department does not collect the information requested.

However, from the 2002-03 school year, statistics on the reasons for suspension have been gathered annually from each education and library board and relate to the number of individual suspensions, not to the number of pupils suspended.

The following table details the number of suspensions[1] for physical attacks on staff, in each education and library board, in the 2002-03—2004-05 school years.

[1] The count of occasions is based on each incidence of suspension, where an incident is defined as a count from the first day a pupil was suspended until the last day suspended. Prior to 2004-05, the count of occasions was based on each record of suspension identified by the education and library boards, and in some instances longer periods of suspension may have had more than one record. This change is due to an improvement in the data collection systems for suspensions in the education and library boards, which has enabled better analysis of the data. As a result, the number of occasions pupils were suspended in 2004-05 has decreased from previous years. However, care should be taken when comparing the number of occasions in 2004-05 with the number of occasions in previous years.

Physical attacks on staff

Education and library board	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Belfast	75	73	84
Western	99	72	49
North Eastern	91	49	51
South Eastern	64	79	57
Southern	36	47	21
NI Total	365	320	262

Reasons for expulsion were first collected in 2003-04. The numbers involved are relatively small and are not disaggregated between education and library boards because of the risk that a school/pupil may be identifiable.

The following table shows the total number of pupils expelled for physical attacks on staff for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 school years.

Physical attacks on staff

	Number
2003-04	7
2004-05	7

The suspension and expulsions statistics for 2005-06 school year are currently being analysed by our statistics branch and will be placed on the DE website when this has been completed.

Sewage

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to ensure that the spillage of raw sewage on to the main Londonderry to Limavady road close to BallyKelly Primary School will not recur. [135149]

David Cairns: The Water and Sewerage Services (NI) Order 2006 transferred responsibility for the delivery of water and sewerage services from the Department's Water Service Agency to a statutory water and sewerage undertaker. A Government-owned company, Northern Ireland Water (NIW) has been appointed as the undertaker and the issue raised is an operational matter for it. I have asked the chief executive of NIW (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of *(a)* HIV, *(b)* chlamydia, *(c)* gonorrhoea, *(d)* syphilis, *(e)* genital warts and *(f)* genital herpes there have been in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [134890]

Paul Goggins: The number of cases of sexually transmitted diseases in Northern Ireland in the past 12 months is not available. However, the number of new episodes of sexually transmitted diseases that were recorded at Genito-Urinary Medicine clinics across Northern Ireland during 2006 is presented in the following table.

Condition	*Number of new episodes*
(a) HIV	55
(b) Chlamydia	2,686
(c) Gonorrhoea	292
(d) Syphilis	82
(e) Anogenital Warts	3,100
(f) Anogential Herpes Simplex	418

Notes:
1. Figures relate to the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006. The figures are currently provisional and may subsequently change.
2. These figures relate to episodes of diagnosis and/or treatment of infection or disease and not individual people. Thus one individual may contribute to more than one episode.

Source:
Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre Northern Ireland (CDSC (NI)).

Unemployment Benefits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were on unemployment benefit in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [135046]

Mr. Hanson: Jobseeker's allowance replaced unemployment benefit in October 1996. The average number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance between 1997 and 2006 is shown in the following table.

	Average number of claimants
1997	55,665
1998	56,897
1999	48,978
2000	42,959
2001	40,627
2002	39,965
2003	37,885
2004	34,528
2005	31,889
2006	29,902

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many grievance procedures have been initiated in her Department in the last 12 months. [135167]

Mr. Lammy: There were no reports of the grievance procedures being initiated formally in DCMS in the last year. The Department's policy is to seek to resolve any problems or concerns raised by staff informally through contact with line management, staff counsellors, trade union representatives or HR as appropriate. Only those cases where the matter cannot be resolved quickly or to the complainant's satisfaction, are recorded and dealt with under the formal grievance procedures.

Departments: EU Council

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many EU Council meetings she has attended since taking up her post; and who represents her if she is unable to attend. [133752]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 30 April 2007]*: Ministers and civil servants attend many meetings as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not usual practice to disclose details or attendance at such meetings. However, I can confirm that the British Government are always represented at EU Council meetings.

Digital Broadcasting: Broadcasting Programmes

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment her Department has made of the public interest in ensuring plurality in *(a)* the broadcasting of sports rights and *(b)* the supply of digital multi-channel television. [134483]

Mr. Woodward: The information is as follows:

(a) It is Government policy to ensure that key sporting events can be made available to all television viewers. Therefore some events are protected by law as "listed events". Beyond these arrangements, sports bodies are free to sell their rights to whomever they please, subject to competition law.

(b) The Government believe there is a strong public interest in securing a dynamic and competitive market for broadcasting—including digital TV—in the UK. This was one of the key policy objectives underpinning the Communications Act 2003.

Digital Switchover

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1551-52W, on digital switchover, whether persons registered as blind or partially sighted but not included in the Department for Work and Pensions records were included in her estimate of eligible persons for the targeted assistance scheme. [135229]

Mr. Woodward: The estimates take account of people who are registered as blind and partially sighted but who are not on DWP records and so cannot be allocated to any particular parliamentary constituency or ITV region.

Equality: Grants

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what grants have been made to institutions in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the North East for events marking the bicentenary of the first Act to abolish the transatlantic slave trade. [134772]

Mr. Lammy: The Heritage Lottery Fund has made 115 awards totalling over £11 million to projects related to the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade and the slave trade generally.

Five of these have been in the North East (one completed project and four approved projects). They are:

£40,300 to Durham University Archives for Learning for a larger project which includes an element on the slave trade. (Completed)

£50,000 to Tyne and Wear Museums for Remembering Slavery; an exhibition showcasing objects, photographs, paintings and documents from the Museum's collections related to the trans-Atlantic slave trade. (Approved)

£49,400 to Stockton Museums Service for 'Manacles and Money'. (Approved)

£49,000 to the Black History Consortium for their Commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Abolition of Slavery in 2007. (Approved)

£17,500 to Identity on Tyne for 'Mapped Roots'. (Approved). This project was funded in collaboration with Arts Council England, which has awarded a further £20,000.

So far, Arts Council England has made a total of 40 grants to bicentenary projects totalling £1,282,354. Two of these projects are in the North East: the Mapped Roots project and Changing Perspectives, a two year study of Black families and their stories of migration into the North East, which has received £5,000 for its first stage.

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) have so far made 17 grants totalling £81,900 across the UK. These include two MLA North East

Strategic Commissioning Grants. The first for £10,000 to the Literary and Philosophical Society to conduct a mapping exercise to identify and list slavery related archives and documents held by four key record offices and libraries in the region. The second for £10,000 to the Northumberland Museum Archives and Country Park and Durham University Library Archives Special Collections to create a number of e-learning packages focusing on slavery for use in schools across the North East region.

The Awards for All grants programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund with the Arts Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England have so far made 23 grants totalling £151,641 to projects to mark the bicentenary across England and Wales. None of these have been in the North East.

Film

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to foster and develop the growth of the British film industry. [134576]

Mr. Woodward: The Government are fostering the growth of the British film industry through their strategic agency the UK Film Council. This was set up in 2000 to create a sustainable film industry and to promote the widest possible enjoyment and understanding of cinema throughout the nations and regions of the UK. The Government have also introduced generous new fiscal incentives to support the production of British films by delivering benefit directly to producers and by stimulating inward investment into the UK film industry from overseas.

Following extensive consultation, the UK Film Council has recently submitted its next three year plan to my Department. This sets out the Council's future strategic and funding priorities and details the initiatives it will be running to deliver these objectives.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the investment returns were for the Film Council from National Lottery funding in August 2006; [134836]

(2) how much the Film Council received from the National Lottery in August 2006. [134837]

Mr. Woodward: The following table shows the UK's Film Council income from the National Lottery Distribution Fund in August 2006, and in the entire financial year 2006-07.

Period	*Operator -related income to nearest £1,000*	*Investment income to nearest £1,000*	*Total to nearest £1,000*
August 2006	2,367,000	142,000	2,509,000
Financial year 2006-07	24,513,000	1,776,000	26,289,000

Gambling: Licensing

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department plans to take to make more effective the delivery networks identified in its Capability Review. [134855]

Mr. Lammy: My Department is fully committed to improving the effectiveness of the delivery networks identified in its Capability Review. Details of how this will be achieved are outlined in the Permanent Secretary's response to the Capability Review (pages 5-8) and in "Transforming DCMS", the transformation action plan. Both are published on the DCMS website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/

Internet: Regulation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* Ofcom on the introduction of the new regulatory system for internet sites referred to by the Chancellor in a speech on 7 March; and when these discussions took place. [135218]

Mr. Lammy: There have been no discussions between my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and the Chancellor on the regulation of internet sites.

The independent regulator, Ofcom, does not regulate content on the internet, but does have a statutory duty to promote media literacy under the Communications Act 2003. In pursuit of that duty, Ofcom has been working to raise people's awareness of how to use web browsers, electronic programme guides and other tools in order to navigate safely and effectively. It is currently developing proposals for the management of audio and visual content using content labelling and tools such as internet filtering and firewalls. DCMS and Ofcom officials have had periodic discussions about Ofcom's plans in this area.

Joint Creative Economy Programme

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what invitations she has issued to her Department's Fashion Summit to inform the Joint Creative Economy Programme; and to whom. [135011]

Mr. Woodward: To inform the further development of the joint DCMS/DTI Creative Economy Programme we have held a number of industry summits, including one for the fashion industry.

For each summit, we invited members of the relevant industry giving them an opportunity to comment on the analysis underpinning our work and on the areas we had identified for further action.

Invitations to the fashion summit—held on 16 April at the London College of Fashion—were issued to the following people.

Name	*Organisation*
Kim Winser	Aquascutum
Hilary Riva	British Fashion Council
Jasper Conran	Jasper Conran
Alexandra Shulman	British Vogue
Vivienne Westwood	Vivienne Westwood
Dr Frances Corner	London College of Fashion
Ursula Hudson	London College of Fashion
Linda Florance	Skillfast-UK
Niki Scordi	Browns

Name	Organisation
Helen Keenan	London Development Agency
Mary Reilly	London Development Agency
Tom Campbell	London Development Agency
Manda Rigby	London Development Agency
Jane Rapley QBE	Central Saint Martins
Stuart Rose	Marks and Spencer
Annette Browne	Marks and Spencer
Tony Ginty	Marks and Spencer
Betty Jackson	Betty Jackson
Jenny Packham	Jenny Packham
Giles Deacon	Giles Deacon
Lauretta Roberts	Drapers
Josephine Collins	Drapers Online
Sir Paul Smith	Paul Smith Ltd
Jane Shepherdson	Jane Shepherdson
Katie Grand	Pop Magazine
Marios Schwab	Marios Schwab
Erdem Moralioglu	Erdem
Wendy Dagworthy	Royal College of Art
Clare Johnston	Royal College of Art
Penny Martin	Show Studio
Jane Boardman	Talk PR
Sarah Mower	Fashion journalist
Ann-Sofie Back	Ann-Sofie Back
Antoni Burakowski and Alison Roberts	Antoni and Alison
Christopher Kane	Christopher Kane
Hamish Morrow	Hamish Morrow
Margaret Howell	Margaret Howell
Galahad Clark	Terra Plana/ United Nude
Joe Corre	Agent Provocateur
Lucille Lewin	Whistles
Sim Scavazza	Formerly of Miss Selfridge
Justine Fairgrove	Relative PR
Michael Blow	Blow PR
Caren Downie	Topshop
Nick Passmore	Topshop
Wendy Malem	Centre for Fashion Enterprise
Alex Gore Browne	Alex Gore Browne
Toby Meadows	Belle and Bunty
Ashish Gupta	Ashish
Gareth Pugh	Gareth Pugh
Nargess Gharani and Vanya Strok	Gharani Strok
Jonathan Saunders	Jonathan Saunders
Manish Arora	Manish Arora
Caroline Lamb, George MacPherson	Peter Jenson
Amy Molyneaux and Percy Parker	PPQ
Justin Thornton and Thea Bragazzi	Preen
Richard Nicoll	Richard Nicoll
Roksanda Ilincic	Roksanda Ilincic
Aleksander Sinha and Fiona Stanic	Sinha-Stanic
Representative	Saltwater
Georgina Von Etzdorf	Georgina Von Etzdorf
Aimee McWilliams	Aimee McWilliams
Avsh Alom Gur	Avsh Alom Gur
Representative	Berube
Jacob Kimmie	Jacob Kimmie
Jean-Pierre Braganza	Jean-Pierre Braganza
Representative	Kisa
Laura Lees	Laura Lees
Representative	Tata Naka
Maria Grachvogel	Maria Grachvogel
Cozmo Jenks	Cozmo Jenks
Georgina Goodman	Georgina Goodman
Lara Bohinc	Lara Bohinc
Olivia Morris	Olivia Morris
Rupert Sanderson	Rupert Sanderson
Bill Amberg	Bill Amberg
Astrid Blake	Alice and Astrid
Ally Capellino	Ally Capellino
Helen David	English Eccentrics
Representative	JasMB
Representative	Lola Rose
Alice Temperley	Temperley London
Nick Hartley	Ann Louise Roswald
Danielle Scutt	Danielle Scutt
Edina Ronay	Edina Ronay
Michiko Koshino	Michiko Koshino
Sara Berman	Sara Berman
Jennifer Williams-Baffoe	Wilbaforce and Cutting It
Terry Mansfield	National Magazines
Rob Bready	ASOS
Richard Bradbury	River Island

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will publish the supporting papers provided for the industry summits held to inform the further development of the Joint Creative Economy Programme. [135018]

Mr. Woodward: It is not possible to release the supporting papers provided for the industry summits as this would inhibit the formulation or development of Government policy. The papers were intended to inform the development of policy underpinning our approach to supporting the creative economy. We will publish the outcome of our discussion in the forthcoming Creative Economy Green Paper, planned for the summer.

Mass Media

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the new text-based labelling system of media content to be introduced by Ofcom referred to by the Chancellor in a speech on 7 March, will be applied to the print media. [135219]

Mr. Woodward: The independent regulator, Ofcom, has a duty to promote media literacy under the Communications Act 2003. In pursuit of that duty, Ofcom has been developing proposals for a common labelling framework which would extend to material either broadcast or found on electronic communications networks.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she expects London council tax payers to receive a refund following the sale of land after the Olympic games have been held. [133290]

Tessa Jowell: Decisions on the London council tax are a matter for the Mayor of London.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library a copy of the revised memorandum of understanding with the Mayor of London on the costs of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic games; and if she will make a statement. [134171]

Tessa Jowell: My statement to the House on 15 March, set out that the Mayor of London and I have agreed to rewrite our memorandum of understanding to put in place profit sharing arrangements to enable the lottery and future regeneration needs of the local area to benefit from the returns on the investment that we are making in the Olympic park.

Work on this has begun; when it is completed I will have a copy of the revised memorandum placed in the Library of the House.

Radio: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the licensed commercial radio stations in *(a)* Romford, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* London. [134581]

Mr. Woodward: I understand that the following are the licensed commercial analogue and digital radio services in each area:

(a) Romford-Time 107.5

(b) Essex—Essex FM, Classic Gold, Dream 107.7 (Chelmsford), Chill, Dream 100 (Tendring), Fun Radio, Kiss 100, Our Kind of Music, Passion for the Planet, SGR Colchester, Ten 17 (Harlow), XFM.

(c) London—Capital Disney, Capital Gold, Capital Radio, Chill, Choice FM, Classic Gold Digital, Club Asia, Easy Radio, Fun Radio, Heart 106.2, Heat, Galaxy Digital, Gaydar, Kerrang, Kismat Radio, Kiss 100, LBC 97.3 FM, LBC News 1152 AM, London 94.9, London Greek Radio (Haringey), London Turkish Radio (north London), Magic 105.4 FM, Panjab Radio, Passion, Premier Christian Radio, Radio Jackie (Kingston-upon-Thames), Real Radio Digital, Smash Hits, 102.2 Smooth FM, Spectrum Radio, Sunrise Radio, The Arrow, The Hits, Time 106.8 (Thamesmead), Time 107.3 (Lewisham), UCB UK, Virgin Radio 105.8 FM, Virgin Radio Groove, Virgin Classic Rock, Virgin Radio Xtreme, Xfm, Yarr Radio.

Radio: Regulation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department is taking to reduce the regulatory burden on analogue commercial radio. [134580]

Mr. Woodward: The regulatory regime for analogue commercial radio is established under the Communications Act 2003 and the Broadcasting Acts. Detailed implementation is the responsibility of the independent communications regulator Ofcom. Ofcom are currently consulting on phase 3 of their review of the future of radio and, subject to the outcome of that consultation, Ofcom and the Government will consider the case for reducing regulatory or legislative burdens on analogue commercial radio.

Sports: Scotland

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much National Lottery money was paid to sports-based causes in Scotland via distributors other than SportScotland in each of the last five years. [134698]

Mr. Caborn: The Big Lottery Fund has supplied the following information about grants to physical activity and sport by it and its predecessor bodies. The information covers the last five complete financial years.

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	£ *Total*
Active Futures	0	0	0	927,246	3,901,081	4,828,327
NOPES Activities	0	33,569,056	1,276,043	0	0	34,845,099
NOPES Facilities	2,910,336	4,119,865	27,980,074	13,852,510	0	48,862,785
Young Peoples Fund	0	0	0	0	1,111,482	1,111,482
Awards for All	0	0	250,000	250,000	500,000	1,000,000
School Sports Coordinators[1]	0	0	940,000	930,000	930,000	2,800,000
Youth Football[2]	0	0	0	0	1,500,000	1,500,000
Total	2,910,336	37,688,921	30,446,117	15,959,756	7,942,563	94,947,693

[1] Grant administered and delivered by Sport Scotland

[2] Grant administered by Sport Scotland and delivered by the Scottish Football Association.

UK Sport has supplied the following information about grants in Scotland in each of the last five completed financial years. The figures given include grants to athletes who represent Scotland, to non governmental bodies based in Scotland and to sport events which could have benefited Scotland.

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	£ *Total*
Athlete	580,028	551,908	533,190	441,546	725,421	2,832,093
NGB	247,931	300,456	371,627	533,406	318,380	1,771,800

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£ Total
Events	376,908	311,935	272,040	70,000	100,000	1,130,883
Total	1,204,867	1,164,299	1,176,857	1,044,952	1,143,801	5,734,776

Television: Telephone Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's policy is on dealing with the recent television premium rate phone call incidents. [134579]

Mr. Woodward: Responsibility for the regulation of these services rests with the independent regulators, Ofcom and ICSTIS. In response to recent concerns, ICSTIS has set out a range of actions aimed at restoring public trust in premium rate services. This includes the introduction of a licensing regime for all premium rate service providers operating participation TV services. In addition, Ofcom is now undertaking an inquiry into these services and will examine consumer protection issues. It will report to the Ofcom Board in early summer. In the meantime, Ofcom is investigating specific allegations. Where this exposes serious failures of compliance, or failures to protect the interests of consumers, Ofcom has the power to impose statutory sanctions and intends to use them.

Tourism

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to increase the number of people holidaying in the UK from *(a)* overseas and *(b)* the UK. [135205]

Mr. Woodward: The forthcoming tourism strategy for the 2012 games, which my Department will publish in partnership with VisitBritain and Visit London, will set out the framework under which the public and private sectors can work to increase *(a)* the numbers of inbound visitors to the UK, and *(b)* the numbers of domestic residents holidaying (or visiting attractions) within this country.

The strategy will build on my Department's existing policies for promoting and supporting the tourism industry through marketing at UK and England levels, and support for the domestic industry in areas including product quality and workforce skills.

I expect the strategy to be published before the end of July.

Tourism: North-east Region

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of likely revenues from tourism in the North East of England over the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [134453]

Mr. Woodward: No forecasts have been made for the revenues from tourism in the North East.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the value of tourism to the North East in each year since 2002. [134454]

Mr. Woodward: The table shows the total spend in the North East from (i) UK residents (with an overnight stay) and (ii) overseas residents, since 2002.

Domestic overnight spend[1]

North East	£ million
2002[2]	868
2003	824
2004	700
2005	822

[1] The methodology for the UKTS changed in 2005 meaning that comparisons with previous years should be treated with caution. This change occurred as a result of concerns with the quality of 2004 data, which are thought to be an under-representation of the true position.
[2] For 2002, data relate to Northumbria only.
Source:
UK Tourism Survey (National Tourist Boards)

Total spend by overseas residents

North East	£ million
2002	169
2003	213
2004	194
2005	206

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

In addition, account should be taken of the total spend of day visitors to, or within, the North East. The Leisure Day Visits Survey in 2002-03 recorded a total spend of £800 million to destinations in the North East. It is not possible to provide a time series for this information as the surveys are run intermittently.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* responsibilities and *(b)* functions are of the UK's role as (i) G8 lead nation for the counter narcotics campaign as set out in the Joint Declaration of an Enduring Relationship between the UK and Afghanistan and (ii) partner nation in the field for counter narcotics, as set out in the Enduring Relationship Action Plan 2006-07. [134005]

Margaret Beckett: The UK took on lead G8 responsibility for counter narcotics following the Bonn Agreement in 2001. In 2006 it was agreed that the concept of 'lead nation' was redundant, as the Afghan Government now had lead responsibility for all aspects of security sector reform. The UK therefore became Afghanistan's 'partner nation' on counter narcotics.

Signed in July 2005, the Joint Declaration of An Enduring Relationship between the UK and Afghanistan is a bilateral agreement between the UK and Afghanistan. The Enduring Relationship Action Plan 2006-07 sets out the commitments between the

two Governments under the 2005 Joint Declaration. Both are available in the Library of the House. Under both the Joint Declaration and the Action Plan, the UK agreed to help Afghanistan mobilise and co-ordinate international efforts to end the drugs trade, in support of the four national priorities identified in the Afghan Government's national drug control strategy (NDCS) - targeting the trafficker, strengthening and diversifying legal rural livelihoods, reducing demand and developing state institutions. We are spending £270 million over three years in support of the NDCS.

Bolivia

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a Minister from her Department last visited Bolivia. [134125]

Mr. Hoon: The then Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister, the late Nicholas Ridley, visited Bolivia in 1980. Since then a number of other Ministerial visits to Bolivia have taken place. The then Minister for Trade, right hon. Brian Wilson, visited in May 1999 and the then Secretary of State for International Development, the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood (Clare Short), visited in August 1999. Most recently, the then Minister for Energy, right hon. Brian Wilson, visited in 2002.

China: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has raised the matter of the provision of assistance by British consular officials to British nationals of Chinese ethnic origin in China, Hong Kong and the Macao Special Administrative Regions with the Chinese Government in the last 12 months; and whether she plans to take up this matter with the Chinese Government in the future. [133593]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not raised the matter of consular assistance to British nationals of Chinese ethnic origin in China, Hong Kong and the Macao Special Administrative Regions in the last 12 months, and has no plans to do so in the immediate future. Consular officials continue to make representations when appropriate.

Cuba: Political Prisoners

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her estimate is of the number of political prisoners in Cuba. [134521]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to him on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 835W.

We will continue to press the Cuban authorities for the immediate release of all political prisoners.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by her Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [134998]

Mr. Hoon: In the UK, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office purchased 7,069,812 kilowatt hours of energy from renewable sources in the financial year April 2006 to March 2007.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of progress in the political, economic and social conditions in the Iraqi provinces of *(a)* Al Basrah, *(b)* Al Muthanna, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Maysan. [132537]

Margaret Beckett: Political tension in Basra has increased following the recent withdrawal of the Fadila political party from the United Iraqi Alliance (the main Shi'a coalition). This has on occasion erupted into violence. The challenging security situation and the legacy of a distorted command economy have slowed economic development in Basra and unemployment is high. The Government are working to build the capability of local institutions, including through the work of the provincial reconstruction team (PRT). Basra's elected provincial council was the first to write its own provincial development strategy—the key to unlocking central Government investment. The Basra Development Forum has also been an important step towards building a closer co-operation between provincial authorities in Basra and central authorities in Baghdad to help improve the situation.

Muthanna and Dhi Qar were transferred to Iraqi security control last year. Both provinces remain stable and their local authorities have shown themselves capable of managing the challenges they face. Unemployment is high in Dhi Qar, as well as in Muthanna. The Dhi Qar PRT is pursuing a range of projects, from basic infrastructure, water purification and electrical sub-stations, through to an amusement park and museum in Nasiriyah, and support for Dhi Qar artists' groups to improve the quality of life for local citizens. The Muthanna PRT is working with the provincial government to carry forward projects aimed at the province's most pressing problems: unemployment, agricultural reform, water, electricity and transport. In both al-Muthanna and Dhi Qar, the PRTs are working with the provincial authorities to build their budgetary planning capacity.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 914W, on Iraq: peace keeping operations, if she will make it her policy to provide assistance from British overseas posts to Iraqi nationals who have left Iraq after threats of violence because of their work as interpreters with the British Army. [135141]

Dr. Howells: We already consider requests for assistance from British overseas posts to Iraqi nationals who have left Iraq after threats of violence because of their work as interpreters with the British army. As I said in my response to my hon. Friend on 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 914W all such requests for assistance are dealt with on a case by case basis, taking account of individual circumstances.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to reply to the letter of 14 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. T.L. Pun. [132490]

Margaret Beckett: The letter sent from my right hon. Friend was received without his constituent's responses to the reasons for refusal provided by the entry clearance officer, preventing my providing a meaningful reply. My officials contacted my right hon. Friend's constituency office on 5 and 20 April to obtain a copy of the paperwork. When officials have received the paperwork from my right hon. Friend's office I will be able to send an appropriate reply.

Nigeria: Elections

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has made representations to the Nigerian Government following the recent presidential and gubernatorial elections on strengthening *(a)* the Anti-Corruption Commission and *(b)* the Independent Electoral Commission. [134511]

Mr. McCartney: Immediately after the 21 April presidential elections our high commissioner in Abuja and my hon. Friend the Member for Sunderland, South (Mr. Mullin) made representations to President Obasanjo and President-elect Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, making clear that we were disappointed by the violence, corruption and the Independent National Electoral Commission's management of the elections, and that the Government of Nigeria must address these shortcomings and return to the path of reform, including the fight against corruption.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement on 23 April. The text of the statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1176969243828&year=2007&month=2007-04-01.

We will continue to make such representations, including on the role of the Independent National Electoral Commission and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, until the Government address our concerns.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to receive reports from international observers following the recent presidential and gubernatorial elections in Nigeria. [134512]

Mr. McCartney: The main international observer missions have published preliminary statements. The EU election observation mission published a Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions on 23 April, which is available on the EU website at: www.europa.eu/index_en.htm. The EU mission will publish a final report within two months of the conclusion of the entire electoral process. The chairman of the Commonwealth Observer Group issued an interim statement on 22 April available at: www.thecommonwealth.org/. The final report of the Observer Group will be submitted to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who in turn will forward it to the Government of Nigeria, the Independent National Electoral Commission, political parties and then to all Commonwealth Governments. The National Democratic Institute issued a preliminary statement of observations and recommendations on 23 April (www.ndi.org). The International Republican Institute issued a statement of Preliminary Findings on 22 April (www.iri.org) and the observer mission of the Economic Community of West African States published Preliminary Declarations on the state elections on 15 April and on the federal elections on 23 April (www.ecowas.int).

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received from European Union election observers on the extent of *(a)* tampering with ballots and *(b)* voter intimidation in the recent presidential and gubernatorial elections in Nigeria. [134519]

Mr. McCartney: In its preliminary conclusions on the elections published on 23 April (www.eueomng.org), the EU election observation mission reports that in the state elections, EU observers witnessed incidents of hijacking of ballot boxes. In almost one fifth of polling stations visited, attempts to influence voters were witnessed. Disorder inside polling stations was witnessed in 15 per cent. of polling stations visited during closing and counting. In almost 30 per cent. of collation centres EU observers had indications of proof that polling results were fraudulently changed. EU observers witnessed cases of fraud, such as that in five wards in Zamfara state, where no elections took place but fake results were included in the governorship elections for the wards concerned. On election day disruption, sometimes violent, of the polling and counting processes by groups of thugs was observed in several states.

In the federal elections EU observers witnessed examples of ballot box stuffing, alteration of official result forms, stealing of sensitive polling materials, vote buying and under age voting. In 14 per cent. of observed polling stations attempts were made to influence voters. Cases of vote buying were observed in Niger and Jigawa states. Disorder was observed in 24 per cent. of the result transfer and collation centre processes observed. A number of fraudulent practices were observed. In many polling stations unused ballot papers were marked and stuffed into the ballot box resulting in almost 100 per cent. voter turnout, as observed in Kwara, Gombe, Edo and Niger states.

Violence was judged to have been a major concern and incidents increased as the elections drew nearer. The EU observers state that credible reports indicate a total of at least 200 people were killed in election-related incidents before and during the elections. The widespread use of thugs by a number of political parties created a significant degree of fear and intimidation. Numerous violent incidents were reported by EU observers, often involving destruction of campaign material and party offices, harassment,

intimidation and violent clashes between party supporters. Political sponsorship, recruitment and use of thugs was witnessed by EU observers in Borno, Abia, Taraba, Gombe, Bauchi, Kaduna, Zamfara, Niger, Oyo, Osun, Kogi and Edo states. Assaults, assassination of candidates and attempted assassinations of candidates were reported in the pre-election period. A heavier security presence contributed to a reduction in violent incidents in the federal elections. But turnout of women for the federal elections on 21 April appeared to be lower than for the state elections on 14 April, which could have been due, at least in part, to violence during the state elections.

These observations have been confirmed in most respects by my hon. Friend the Member for Sunderland, South (Mr. Mullin) who undertook an observation mission on behalf of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Occupied Territories

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department has taken to ensure that no products emanating from settlements built in occupied territory in breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention are purchased by her Department and its overseas missions. [132723]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not currently have a policy precluding the purchase of goods emanating from the settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The FCO's policy on the procurement of goods is based on value for money, having due regard to propriety and regularity and ensuring full compliance with the EU consolidated Public Procurement directive, implemented in the UK by the Public Contracts Regulations 2006, where applicable. However, in practice the FCO in London and FCO Posts do not purchase goods from the settlements.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will instruct overseas missions not to purchase and consume products emanating from settlements built in Occupied Territories in breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. [132724]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave her today (UIN 132723). There is no provision in either the EU consolidated Public Procurement directive or the UK Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No. 5) to instruct the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas missions in this way and I do not therefore intend to do so.

Occupied Territories: Taxation

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations have been made to Israel and the Palestinian authorities on the release of Palestinian tax and customs revenues collected by Israel. [134525]

Dr. Howells: We welcome Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and Palestinian President Abbas' meeting on 23 December 2006, and the resulting release of US$100 million in Palestinian tax revenues.

At the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 23 April, EU Foreign Ministers repeated their call for Israel to immediately resume the transfer of withheld Palestinian tax and customs revenues, directly or through the Temporary International mechanism. We support this. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office raised this issue with the Israeli Embassy in London on 18 April.

We have not made any formal representations to the Palestinian authorities, as it is the Palestinian Authority's money that is being withheld. However, we have discussed the issue with the Palestinian Authority on a number of occasions.

Parliamentary Scrutiny

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions the Government overrode the scrutiny reserve resolution in each of the last five years. [135187]

Mr. Hoon: The following table provides information on the number of overrides in each House since the Government began sending twice-yearly lists to the chairpersons of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee and the House of Lords European Union Committee. Details of each case are included in these lists. In each case a Minister overrides the Scrutiny Reserve Resolution, they account for their action in writing to the chairperson of each Scrutiny Committee.

Period	*House of Lords*	*House of Commons*
January to June 2003	30	26
July to December 2003	34	33
January to June 2004	13	16
June to December 2004	20	22
January to June 2005[1]	28	52
July to December 2005	17	19
January to June 2006	15	12
July to December 2006	24	29

[1] Figures for the first half of 2005 include a period when Parliament was dissolved and a period immediately after the opening of Parliament, before the European Union Committee in the House of Lords and the European Scrutiny Committee in the House of Commons could be appointed.

Somalia: Terrorism

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to seek a ceasefire by Islamic insurgents in Somalia. [134520]

Mr. McCartney: The UK does not have contact with the Islamist insurgents in Somalia, but we have called for an immediate end to all fighting and publicly urged all parties to commit to a truce and agree a lasting ceasefire.

We have repeatedly made clear that all parties in Somalia need to reject violence and allow the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to do their

job. Any differences that some groups in Mogadishu might have with the TFG should be pursued through the National Reconciliation Congress and dialogue with the TFG rather than by resorting to violence. We condemn any attacks on the TFG, which is the only legitimate route through which governance, peace and stability can be restored to Somalia. At the same time, we have repeatedly made clear to the TFG that they must make genuine attempts to reach out to all groups in Somalia that credibly reject violence.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the government of Sudan on Janjaweed militia activity in Darfur. [134339]

Mr. McCartney: We have pressed the Government of Sudan to act on its obligations under UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1706 (2006). This requires implementation of an effective ceasefire and of the Darfur Peace Agreement, including its provisions for the disarmament of the Janjaweed/armed militias; and a renewed political process between the Government of Sudan and the rebel groups.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary condemned the most recent Government of Sudan bombing raids in North Darfur, between 19 and 21 April, which resulted in a number of civilian injuries and deaths.

To maintain pressure on the Government of Sudan to implement their commitments to the international community, we are currently discussing the elements of a new UNSCR with international partners and the UN.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the need for a no-fly zone over Darfur; and if she will make a statement. [135252]

Mr. McCartney: We utterly condemn the recent bombings in North Darfur by the Sudanese Government. They are in direct violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1591 and demonstrate a lack of commitment to the peace process.

The Sudanese Government must commit to an immediate ceasefire. If they do not, we will be forced to press for tougher measures. We are considering all options, including measures to allow better monitoring of the illegal use of aircraft in Darfur.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan to take at United Nations level following recent reports by the United Nations Panel of Experts that the Government of the Sudan are operating aircraft with United Nations markings in Darfur. [135253]

Mr. McCartney: We are very concerned by reports that the Government of Sudan are operating aircraft with UN markings in Darfur. The Sudanese Government resumed bombing villages in Darfur last week, resulting in a number of civilian injuries and deaths. We condemn these attacks, which show little regard for human life.

We supported the report by the Panel of Experts and its recommendations at the UN Sanctions Committee. It has not yet been transmitted to the UN Security Council, nor has its contents been made public. Our Ambassador to the UN, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, reports developments regularly to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary. We continue to discuss the case for further sanctions in the UN.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the steps taken by the US Administration to block transfers by US commercial banks of oil payments to the Government of Sudan; and if she will make a statement. [135254]

Mr. McCartney: We are aware of the steps taken by the US Administration to block transfers by US commercial banks of oil payments to the Government of Sudan. We are keeping the situation in Sudan under close review. If the Sudanese Government do not co-operate with the international community, we are prepared to consider further sanctions. We are discussing the elements of a new UN Security Council Resolution with international partners, which would include further targeted sanctions against individuals engaged in violence or responsible for authorising it; an extension of the arms embargo to cover the whole of Sudan; and, measures to allow better monitoring of the illegal use of aircraft in Darfur.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has received evidence of breaches of the sanctions regime in the Darfur region of Sudan. [134926]

Mr. McCartney: The Sudanese Government resumed bombing villages in Darfur last week, resulting in a number of civilian injuries and deaths. We condemn these attacks, which show little regard for human life. We supported the report by the Panel of Experts and its recommendations at the UN Sanctions Committee. It has not yet been transmitted to the UN Security Council nor has its contents been made public.

Uganda: Arrests

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the welfare of the recently arrested leaders of the Ugandan Opposition Beatrice Atim and Hussein Kyanjo; and if she will make a statement. [134144]

Mr. McCartney: Ugandan Opposition MPs Beatrice Atim and Hussein Kyanjo were arrested on 16 April, following demonstrations in Kampala on 12 April protesting about plans to give away parts of Mabira forest to the Sugar Corporation of Uganda Ltd. They have been charged with participating in a riot. They were granted bail and released on 18 April. Their case will be heard on 15 May. Our high commission in Kampala has been in contact with Hussein Kyanjo to check on the welfare of both MPs, which we understand is satisfactory.

We condemn the violence that erupted on the streets of Kampala on 12 April resulting in the deaths of three people. We call on all sides to uphold full respect for human rights and to respect the rule of law.

Uganda: Human Rights

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to monitor the human rights situation in Kampala; and if she will make a statement. [134146]

Mr. McCartney: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Moray (Angus Robertson) on 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1260W.

Our high commission in Kampala continues to closely follow the human rights situation in Kampala and in Uganda as a whole.

Most recently the plans to give away parts of Mabira forest to private ownership have resulted in violent street protest and deaths in Kampala. In our contacts with the Ugandan Government we will continue to stress the importance of the police acting responsibly and proportionately when policing demonstrations.

Uganda: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to monitor the newly established ceasefire agreement between the Lord's Resistance Army and the Ugandan Government; and if she will make a statement. [134138]

Mr. McCartney: The Cessation of Hostilities Monitoring Team is responsible for monitoring the recently revised and extended Cessation of Hostilities Agreement between the Lord's Resistance Army and the Ugandan Government. We welcome the decision by the African Union to deploy two additional monitors from each of the five official observer countries—Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa.

UN Resolutions: Frontiers

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many notifications have been received by the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to UN Resolution 1737 (2006) since 23 December 2006 from states reporting the entry into or transit through their territories of designated persons. [132783]

Margaret Beckett: The UN Security Council Committee established, pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006), has received two notifications from member states of travel by individuals designated in the Annexes to resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007). Russia notified the Committee in March of the pending travel to Moscow of General Zolqadr for bilateral talks and Indonesia notified the Committee in March of the pending travel to Jakarta of Mohammad Reza Assadi, an employee of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, for a regional conference.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Development: Religion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. [134939]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 April 2007]:* Two reports have so far been published. The first, the Survey of Parties in the Application Process, was published in May 2006. This survey evaluated the processes of application that occurred in the first round of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund (FCCBF). The fund is administered by the Community Development Foundation (CDF) and the report is available on the CDF website at: http://www.cdf.org.uk.

The second report on the first survey into the impact of the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund was published in March 2007. This report is available on the CDF website.

Departments: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department and its predecessors provided to Great Yarmouth borough council in each of the last 30 years for which figures are available. [135204]

Mr. Woolas: Complete figures are readily available only for the last five years. Payments made to Great Yarmouth borough council by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors since 2002-03 were as follows.

£ million

	Formula grant	*Other payments*	*Total*
2002-03	9.0	9.6	18.6
2003-04	9.0	12.1	21.1
2004-05	8.2	5.0	13.2
2005-06	8.5	4.7	13.2
2006-07	9.8	6.3	16.1

Home Information Packs

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment she has made of the conclusions and recommendations of the Better Regulation Commission's report Energy Performance Certificates and Residential Property; and whether home information packs will be introduced on 1 June; [129048]

(2) whether her Department is proceeding with the requirement that energy performance certificates be included in home information packs following the report by the Better Regulation Commission, Energy Performance Certificates and Residential Property, published on 26 February; and if she will make a statement. [129047]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have considered the views of the Better Regulation Commission (BRC) as well as the views of a wide range of stakeholders and organisations. We believe that home buyers need up to date energy information on their new home rather than energy information which is up to ten years out of date as the BRC have proposed.

Home Information Packs including Energy Performance Certificates that are no more than three months old at the point of first marketing will be introduced on 1 June. The relevant regulations and supporting regulatory impact assessments were laid before the House on 29 March and came into force on 19 April.

Housing: Income

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total amount was of capital receipts from shared owners staircasing up their equity share in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and to how many units these receipts related. [135073]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* When shared owners increase their equity share, the registered social landlord is required to reinvest the part of the receipt which represents any grant provided by the Housing Corporation for the provision of the property. In *(a)* 2005-06 this grant represented £48 million arising from the sale of further shares in 2,410 units. Data for *(b)* 2006-07 are not yet available.

The remaining receipts are retained by registered social landlords and details are not held centrally.

Public Houses: Closures

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research she has commissioned on the impact of pub closures on local communities; and if she will make a statement. [132717]

Mr. Woolas: I have not commissioned any specific research on the impact of pub closures on local communities.

Regeneration: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much departmental funding has been allocated to regeneration projects in Great Yarmouth in each year since 1997. [135178]

Mr. Woolas: Information is only available on allocations made directly by Communities and Local Government and its predecessors to Great Yarmouth borough council since 2002. All of these allocations were made under the European Regional Development Fund Objective 2 programme. These do not correspond to payments in the years concerned.

The amounts allocated were as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	0.2
2003-04	3.0
2004-05	1.4
2005-06	1.6
2006-07	1.5

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Postal Voting: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what percentage of the electorate has registered for a postal vote in each local authority in Lancashire. [134078]

Bridget Prentice: The Government only hold information on registration figures as of 1 December 2006, and the number of postal voters as of 1 January 2007. Using this information provides the following percentages for the local government electorate in Lancashire:

	Percentage
Burnley	10.72
Chorley	24.69
Fylde	11.72
Hyndburn	11.4
Lancaster	9.14
Pendle	11.31
Preston	13.34
Ribble Valley	5.25
Rossendale	12.38
South Ribble	13.46
West Lancashire	15.2
Wyre	19.15

Updated information may be obtained directly from local authorities.

Bankruptcy: Suffolk

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people were declared bankrupt in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [134670]

Ms Harman: A bankruptcy order is made on the petition of the debtor or one of his creditors when the court is satisfied that there is no prospect of the debt being paid. The following table shows the number of bankruptcy orders made at either Bury St. Edmunds or Ipswich county courts since 1998, the earliest year for which statistics are available. Bury St. Edmunds and Ipswich are the only two county courts in Suffolk which deal with insolvency matters.

Bankruptcy petitions should be presented in the court that deals with the area where the debtor has lived or traded for the longest period in the previous six months. However, the insolvency jurisdictions of particular county courts are not directly comparable with standard geographies such as counties or

parliamentary constituencies. For these reasons, figures shown in the table will not be an exact measure of bankruptcies in Suffolk.

Number of bankruptcy orders made at Bury St. Edmunds or Ipswich county courts: 1998 to 2006

	Number of bankruptcy orders made in Bury St. Edmunds county court	Number of bankruptcy orders made in Ipswich county court	Total for Bury St. Edmunds and Ipswich county courts
1998	87	191	278
1999	80	212	292
2000	81	191	272
2001	92	179	271
2002	128	186	314
2003	122	274	396
2004	142	289	431
2005	217	337	554
2006	274	513	787

Source:
Insolvency Service

Constituencies

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will publish maps showing the precise new boundaries of parliamentary constituencies in England following the recent Boundary Commission report. [134488]

Bridget Prentice: Volumes 3 and 4 of the Boundary Commission for England's Fifth Periodical Report set out in some detail, on maps produced by Ordnance Survey, where the proposed new boundaries for parliamentary constituencies in England would lie.

The draft order to implement the new constituencies, which is currently before Parliament, mirrors in full the recommendations of the Boundary Commission for England.

We have no current plans to make more detailed constituency maps available. However, once the current draft order is made we will be exploring with the Boundary Commissions and Ordnance Survey the possibility of producing more detailed constituency maps.

Courts: Interpreters

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much was spent by the court system on interpreters in the latest period for which figures are available. [134420]

Ms Harman: The information requested is not collected centrally (and could be provided only at disproportionate cost) for interpreters used in the Crown court and criminal hearings in the magistrates courts. In each of the last five years the costs of interpreters for civil and family hearings are as follows:

	Cost (£)
2002-03	181,000
2003-04	204,000
2004-05	250,000
2005-06	494,000
2006-07	[1]208,000

[1] As at end September.

Changes to the financial systems used to pay interpreters have taken effect in the last couple of years and the figures quoted are therefore approximate. Her Majesty's Courts Service is currently undertaking some analysis of interpreters booked in the last year to try to identify trends in the increase of bookings and subsequent cost.

Departments: Buildings

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what effect she expects the forthcoming reorganisation of her Department to have on the allocation and organisation of Government buildings; and if she will make a statement. [134343]

Ms Harman: In accordance with normal practice for machinery of Government changes, responsibility for those buildings wholly occupied by staff transferring to the Ministry of Justice will also be transferred. Arrangements for building(s) that will be shared between the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice will be managed in accordance with normal practice for jointly occupied buildings that form part of the Government's civil estate.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what Government buildings the planned Ministry of Justice will share with the Home Office. [134344]

Ms Harman: The Ministry of Justice will share 2 Marsham street with the Home Office.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether the 50 Queen Anne's Gate building will be home to the Ministry of Justice; and if she will make a statement. [134345]

Ms Harman: 50 Queen Anne's Gate will become the headquarters of the Ministry of Justice.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the status of the old Home Office building at 50 Queen Anne's Gate. [134347]

Ms Harman: The building is currently being refurbished by the landlord and will become the headquarters of the Ministry of Justice following refurbishment of the building.

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in her Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134834]

Ms Harman: During the last 12 months (for the period April 2006 to March 2007) the Department for Constitutional Affairs has received 16 official complaints about bullying, of which two were upheld and two were partly upheld.

Electoral Systems

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when the Government will publish its review of electoral systems currently in use in the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [135191]

Bridget Prentice: The review is currently under way in the Department for Constitutional Affairs. The review will include information on the recent elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly in March 2007 and the up-coming elections for the National Assembly for Wales and the Scottish Parliament this week. It is anticipated that the review will be completed within the lifetime of this Parliament. Ministers will take decisions on any next steps, if necessary, after the review is completed.

Freedom of Information: Complaints

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many complaints under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been awaiting allocation to a case officer of the Information Commissioner's Offices (ICO) for *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* nine months and *(d)* longer, broken down by ICO (i) regional offices and (ii) teams; and if she will make a statement: [134506]

Ms Harman: As of 31 March 2007 the number of complaints under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 awaiting allocation to a case officer at the Information Commissioner's Office, broken down by time and team, was as detailed in the following table.

Time period/team	*Belfast*	*Cardiff*	*Team 1*	*Team 2*	*Team 3*	*Team 4*	*Team 5*	*Team 6*	*Total*
0 to three months	8	19	23	15	51	25	65	36	242
Three to six months	3	0	9	23	19	19	21	27	121
Six to nine months	1	0	12	20	18	18	11	23	103
Nine months +	15	0	12	37	37	6	8	32	147
Total for team	27	19	56	95	125	68	105	118	613

Sector	*Team name*
Health and Transport	Team 1
Education, Police and Justice	Team 2
Central Government 1	Team3
Local Government 1 (North)	Team 4
Local Government 2 (South)	Team 5
Central Government Millbank	Team 6

Immigration

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on what date the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal notified *(a)* the Home Office and *(b)* HM High Commission, Islamabad, of its decision in the case of Mrs. K. U.N., wife of Mr. I. G. of Aylesbury (reference OA/26058/2006), which was heard on 7 February and promulgated on 19 February. [134377]

Bridget Prentice: Information shows that the immigration judge determination for appeal reference OA/26058/2006 was served upon the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND) of the Home Office on 19 February 2007.

In entry clearance and family visitor appeals the determination is served upon the Border and Immigration Agency (formerly the Immigration and Nationality Directorate) who will arrange for the forwarding of the determination to the entry clearance post that made the original refusal.

The Border and Immigration Agency have confirmed that they forwarded a copy of the determination to the high commission in Islamabad on 26 April 2007.

Lord Chancellor's Dept: European Council

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many EU Council meetings the Lord Chancellor has attended since taking up her post; and who represents her if she is unable to attend. [133756]

Bridget Prentice: The Department for Constitutional Affairs is represented at EU Justice and Home Affairs Council meetings by my right hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs, Baroness Ashton of Upholland as she is the Minister responsible for EU and international business. She attends all such Council meetings unless there is no business relevant to the Department. Baroness Ashton has attended 16 Council meetings since taking up her post.

Orders and Regulations: Public Libraries

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that copies of statutory instruments are made available in public libraries in England. [134255]

Ms Harman: Individual public libraries determine the contents of their own stock holdings based on the demands of their users.

A diminishing number of public libraries take printed copies of legislation, although most libraries allow users to access legislation on the official legislation website at:

www.opsi.gov.uk

Repossession Orders: Suffolk

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many court orders were issued for the repossession of homes in *(a)* Bury St Edmunds constituency and *(b)* Suffolk county council area in each year since 1997. [134690]

Ms Harman: The following table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made at each of the Suffolk county courts (Bury St. Edmonds, Ipswich and Lowestoft) since 1997.

The civil procedure rules provide that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, these county courts cover areas that are not necessarily consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries, and therefore for instance repossessions at Bury St. Edmunds county court may relate to properties in other constituencies besides Bury St. Edmunds.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all orders result in the properties actually being repossessed.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made at Bury St. Edmunds county court and other Suffolk county courts, 1997-2006

	Possession Orders Made[2]									
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Bury St. Edmunds	56	68	72	37	35	18	48	47	99	117
Ipswich	113	117	136	66	51	60	46	79	123	192
Lowestoft	50	58	37	75	58	54	64	82	125	149
Suffolk	219	243	245	178	144	132	158	208	347	458

[1] Local authority and private

[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

TREASURY

Business: Taxation

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will introduce a unique business reference number for the purposes of allocation, collection, storage and verification of information relating to businesses for the purposes of the payment of taxation; and if he will *(a)* bring forward proposals for and *(b)* discuss with Cabinet colleagues the use of a single business reference number for firms accessing services delivered across all departments. [134631]

John Healey: HMRC is working towards the introduction of a customer index which could provide the basis for a unique business reference number, and which would enable HMRC to bring together a business's tax affairs. Following the recommendations of the Hampton report, the issues relating to services across a range of departments are under consideration by a cross-departmental group of officials.

Cancer

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Great Yarmouth died from cancer in each of the last 30 years for which figures are available, broken down by cancer type. [135202]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 2 May 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from cancer in each of the last 30 years for which figures are available in (a) England and (b) Great Yarmouth, broken down by cancer type. (135202)

Figures for Great Yarmouth can only be calculated from 1981 onwards. The attached tables provide the numbers of deaths where cancer was the underlying cause of death in (a) England from 1976 to 2005 (the latest year available) and (b) Great Yarmouth from 1981 to 2005, by cancer site.

Table 1: Number of deaths with cancer as the underlying cause of death,[1] England 1976-2005[2], by cancer site

Deaths (persons)

	1976	*1977*	*1978*	*1979*	*1980*	*1981*	*1982*	*1983*	*1984*	*1985*
All cancers	117,812	117,399	118,780	120,461	121,546	122,341	122,692	124,859	129,989	131,222
Lip, mouth and pharynx	1,516	1,422	1,411	1,564	1,495	1,571	1,494	1,589	1,656	1,588
Oesophagus	3,221	3,365	3,448	3,385	3,572	3,583	3,756	3,820	4,050	4,267
Stomach	11,014	10,570	10,674	10,464	10,140	9,854	9,423	9,784	9,557	9,257
Colorectal	16,043	15,423	15,395	15,526	15,548	15,434	15,032	15,565	16,191	16,174
Pancreas	5,296	5,313	5,344	5,546	5,564	5,372	5,372	5,469	5,661	5,675
Larynx	754	691	718	775	755	789	783	714	729	781
Lung	31,774	32,273	32,559	32,890	33,327	32,899	32,944	33,622	33,815	33,849
Melanoma of the skin	739	699	722	751	762	815	897	800	934	920
Breast (female)	11,091	11,080	11,219	11,367	11,417	11,741	11,628	11,879	12,471	12,710
Cervix	2,065	2,002	1,986	1,944	1,939	1,877	1,804	1,815	1,779	1,814

Table 1: Number of deaths with cancer as the underlying cause of death,[1] England 1976-2005[2], by cancer site

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
										Deaths (persons)
Uterus	1,418	1,412	1,463	1,400	1,416	1,417	1,468	1,408	1,370	1,431
Ovary	3,519	3,471	3,582	3,524	3,524	3,494	3,385	3,514	3,710	3,600
Prostate	4,348	4,371	4,463	4,568	4,732	4,880	4,971	5,310	5,892	6,252
Testis	266	243	201	185	207	154	131	140	149	107
Kidney	1,716	1,701	1,615	1,697	1,682	1,704	1,874	1,931	2,073	2,075
Bladder	4,010	3,998	3,999	3,972	4,013	4,111	4,007	4,201	4,341	4,406
Brain	1,787	1,957	2,025	2,127	2,165	2,025	1,919	2,215	2,385	2,390
Hodgkin's disease	603	613	625	546	535	512	473	452	448	433
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	1,723	1,792	1,977	2,004	2,145	2,052	2,236	2,365	2,584	2,680
Multiple myeloma	1,281	1,337	1,385	1,514	1,491	1,533	1,550	1,554	1,788	1,906
All leukaemias	2,985	2,982	3,136	3,086	3,120	3,147	3,258	3,219	3,320	3,439

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
										Deaths (persons)
All cancers	130,494	132,115	133,549	134,405	133,941	134,630	134,987	131,460	130,768	130,256
Lip, mouth and pharynx	1,537	1,572	1,576	1,601	1,543	1,603	1,593	1,469	1,650	1,497
Oesophagus	4,242	4,483	4,528	4,650	4,890	4,951	5,035	5,257	5,334	5,427
Stomach	8,995	8,858	8,719	8,440	8,083	7,805	7,686	6,987	7,007	6,511
Colorectal	15,724	15,987	16,133	16,279	16,156	16,007	16,285	15,038	14,803	14,675
Pancreas	5,631	5,733	5,628	5,712	5,762	5,661	5,661	5,522	5,439	5,476
Larynx	785	816	791	807	749	792	825	799	771	755
Lung	33,243	33,148	33,281	32,465	32,305	32,169	31,603	30,524	30,121	29,711
Melanoma of the skin	976	969	1,027	1,027	1,091	1,090	1,065	1,311	1,290	1,301
Breast (female)	12,825	12,901	12,851	13,108	12,825	12,979	12,803	12,197	12,015	11,772
Cervix	1,858	1,763	1,809	1,692	1,653	1,531	1,532	1,377	1,265	1,256
Uterus	1,369	1,355	1,358	1,358	1,349	1,381	1,292	1,209	1,173	1,226
Ovary	3,622	3,704	3,570	3,717	3,781	3,625	3,643	3,587	3,612	3,647
Prostate	6,511	6,750	7,051	7,411	7,635	8,032	8,257	8,100	8,170	8,259
Testis	116	131	134	108	117	104	117	94	71	79
Kidney	2,095	2,127	2,138	2,228	2,269	2,393	2,417	2,386	2,395	2,508
Bladder	4,446	4,344	4,521	4,510	4,668	4,621	4,810	4,500	4,516	4,542
Brain	2,269	2,426	2,481	2,546	2,534	2,493	2,679	2,453	2,437	2,481
Hodgkin's disease	426	433	401	361	348	341	364	326	252	281
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	2,818	3,023	3,243	3,279	3,355	3,470	3,583	3,544	3,589	3,725
Multiple myeloma	1,864	2,019	1,995	2,129	1,970	2,006	1,969	2,070	1,974	2,067
All leukaemias	3,312	3,396	3,409	3,469	3,238	3,391	3,326	3,312	3,265	3,272

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
										Deaths (persons)
All cancers	128,886	127,040	127,564	125,527	124,208	127,076	128,171	127,259	129,057	126,606
Lip, mouth and pharynx	1,555	1,576	1,570	1,549	1,530	1,572	1,581	1,472	1,619	1,598
Oesophagus	5,429	5,439	5,558	5,675	5,673	5,668	5,910	6,002	5,899	6,087
Stomach	6,270	6,151	5,963	5,667	5,365	5,197	5,171	4,894	4,708	4,582
Colorectal	14,415	14,190	13,962	13,613	13,223	13,182	13,387	13,079	13,217	13,191
Pancreas	5,478	5,421	5,444	5,579	5,695	5,663	5,726	5,841	5,887	6,093
Larynx	744	730	685	684	655	706	686	678	627	606
Lung	28,974	28,130	28,360	27,671	27,245	26,922	27,031	27,005	26,453	26,937
Melanoma of the skin	1,291	1,315	1,388	1,377	1,445	1,380	1,383	1,466	1,478	1,530
Breast (female)	11,424	11,241	11,004	10,856	10,609	10,846	10,789	10,489	10,295	10,346
Cervix	1,225	1,150	1,078	1,034	1,035	947	926	888	899	837
Uterus	1,216	1,207	1,208	1,153	1,243	1,292	1,271	1,306	1,351	1,368
Ovary	3,864	3,747	3,744	3,691	3,669	3,877	3,922	3,805	3,655	3,694
Prostate	8,219	7,977	8,067	8,048	7,786	8,286	8,440	8,582	8,533	8,520
Testis	95	64	71	71	63	55	56	70	64	61
Kidney	2,402	2,511	2,549	2,538	2,548	2,642	2,755	2,813	2,947	2,941

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
									Deaths (persons)	
Bladder	4,310	4,280	4,212	4,102	4,173	4,172	4,160	4,131	4,065	3,906
Brain	2,550	2,617	2,633	2,630	2,694	2,779	2,720	2,772	2,826	2,775
Hodgkin's disease	275	245	246	226	223	211	238	270	265	232
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	3,690	3,677	3,720	3,762	3,785	3,858	4,021	3,917	3,738	3,781
Multiple myeloma	2,027	1,934	2,097	2,033	1,886	2,187	2,260	2,307	2,205	2,158
All leukaemias	3,233	3,310	3,292	3,425	3,318	3,515	3,620	3,665	3,555	3,620

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Eighth Revision (ICD-8) for the years 1976-78, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1979 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The introduction of ICD-9 in 1979 and ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from specific causes are not completely comparable across the whole period. The ICD codes for each cancer site are given in the following table.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Cancer sites, International Classification of Diseases, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Revisions

	ICD-8 (1976-78)	ICD-9 (1979-2000)	ICD-10 (2001-05)
All cancers	140-205	140-208	C00-97
Lip, mouth and pharynx	140-149	140-149	C00-C14
Oesophagus	150	150	C15
Stomach	151	151	C16
Colorectal	153-154	153-154	C18-C21
Pancreas	157	157	C25
Larynx	161	161	C32
Lung	162	162	C33-C34
Melanoma of the skin	172	172	C43
Breast (female)	174	174	C50
Cervix	180	180	C53
Uterus	182	182	C54-C55
Ovary	183	183	C56-C57
Prostate	185	185	C61
Testis	186	186	C62
Kidney	189	189	C64-C66, C68
Bladder	188	188	C67
Brain	191	191	C71
Hodgkin's disease	201	201	C81
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	200, 202	200, 202	C82-C85, C91.4, C96
Multiple myeloma	203	203	C90
All leukaemias	204-207	204-208	C91-C95 ex. C91.4

Table 2: Number of deaths with cancer as the underlying cause of death,[1] Great Yarmouth 1981-2005[2, 3], by cancer site

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
												Deaths (persons)	
All cancers	235	254	265	279	269	260	239	299	269	302	283	298	287
Lip, mouth and pharynx	0	3	2	6	6	4	2	3	2	1	1	5	3
Oesophagus	3	6	9	5	8	9	5	10	13	8	11	11	11
Stomach	27	16	16	15	24	28	27	22	19	23	13	23	21
Colorectal	21	36	29	34	34	37	26	37	29	43	35	41	35
Pancreas	11	7	7	14	8	9	6	14	8	14	11	11	8
Larynx	0	4	1	3	4	1	2	2	0	1	3	0	1
Lung	61	71	81	68	59	69	55	86	64	61	74	65	64
Melanoma of the skin	2	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	3	1	5
Breast (female)	24	10	25	30	29	25	27	20	30	38	31	20	34
Cervix	4	1	3	2	3	6	4	1	5	4	5	3	1
Uterus	1	3	2	2	4	2	3	1	1	0	2	3	3
Ovary	9	8	10	10	10	5	4	11	6	7	8	7	6
Prostate	9	18	6	17	10	15	19	15	17	24	16	27	19
Testis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0
Kidney	0	2	3	3	4	5	6	5	6	6	2	7	7
Bladder	11	9	16	7	16	5	4	9	12	13	9	12	6
Brain	6	5	6	2	7	4	6	10	6	6	5	5	7
Hodgkin's disease	1	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	3	7	7	10	5	4	8	8	3	7	7	7	8
Multiple myeloma	3	2	3	7	3	3	1	5	4	7	5	7	4
All leukaemias	7	4	4	8	5	3	6	5	7	6	8	4	6

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All cancers	274	299	275	268	281	280	287	279	259	263	287	299
Lip, mouth and pharynx	3	4	2	1	3	2	2	1	6	2	2	2
Oesophagus	12	16	11	3	13	22	14	11	14	4	7	18
Stomach	21	20	15	12	13	12	16	7	8	10	11	10
Colorectal	29	32	27	30	30	27	28	29	39	25	36	30
Pancreas	13	9	9	5	12	17	10	10	4	9	26	15
Larynx	2	5	1	0	2	2	1	4	4	2	2	4
Lung	57	73	72	67	64	55	58	63	44	57	62	60
Melanoma of the skin	4	2	2	2	2	3	5	1	3	4	5	2
Breast (female)	22	28	25	23	19	24	14	23	22	20	24	22
Cervix	2	1	4	8	4	2	4	1	3	2	1	0
Uterus	0	2	0	4	2	1	5	2	3	2	7	7
Ovary	6	2	8	5	5	11	6	9	5	7	8	8
Prostate	32	25	16	19	17	26	21	27	22	30	16	25
Testis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Kidney	4	4	3	3	2	7	11	10	8	8	5	12
Bladder	9	11	14	18	14	9	8	11	5	11	11	6
Brain	4	4	6	3	11	5	3	5	5	3	7	8
Hodgkin's disease	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	4	8	8	8	11	5	9	7	10	16	7	9
Multiple myeloma	6	3	0	5	4	1	5	5	4	6	3	4
All leukaemias	7	5	8	10	5	6	14	7	2	9	3	8

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1981 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from specific causes before 2001 are not completely comparable across the whole period. The ICD codes for each cancer site are given in the following table.
[2] Based on local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Cancer sites, International Classification of Diseases, Ninth and Tenth Revisions

	ICD-9 (1979-2000)	ICD-10 (2001-05)
All cancers	140-208	C00-97
Lip, mouth and pharynx	140-149	C00-C14
Oesophagus	150	C15
Stomach	151	C16
Colorectal	153-154	C18-C21
Pancreas	157	C25
Larynx	161	C32
Lung	162	C33-C34
Melanoma of the skin	172	C43
Breast (female)	174	C50
Cervix	180	C53
Uterus	182	C54-C55
Ovary	183	C56-C57
Prostate	185	C61
Testis	186	C62
Kidney	189	C64-C66, C68
Bladder	188	C67
Brain	191	C71
Hodgkin's disease	201	C81
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	200, 202	C82-C85, C91.4, C96
Multiple myeloma	203	C90
All leukaemias	204-208	C91-C95 ex. C91.4

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Great Yarmouth were diagnosed with cancer in each of the last 30 years for which figures are available, broken down by cancer type. [135203]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 2 May 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were diagnosed with cancer in each of the last 30 years for which figures are available in (a) England and (b) Great Yarmouth, broken down by cancer type. [135203]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of cancer in England are for the year 2004. Figures for (a) England from 1975-2004 are given in Table 1 and (b) Great Yarmouth local authority from 1990-2004 are given in Table 2. Earlier figures for Great Yarmouth are not readily available.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer, England, 1975-2004: 21 most common cancers by site[1]

										Persons
	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
All cancers	154,810	157,510	162,270	167,970	168,915	170,379	175,740	177,661	181,501	187,958

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer, England, 1975-2004: 21 most common cancers by site[1]

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	Persons 1984
All cancers xnmsc[2]	139,963	142,209	146,840	152,033	152,475	152,727	157,329	158,660	162,726	168,115
Lip, mouth and pharynx	2,907	3,030	2,816	2,997	2,986	2,885	2,778	2,681	2,786	2,832
Oesophagus	2,851	2,964	3,082	3,188	3,349	3,403	3,489	3,622	3,391	3,607
Stomach	11,526	11,315	11,501	11,361	11,742	11,110	11,384	11,411	11,237	11,524
Colorectal	19,170	19,414	20,255	20,718	21,198	21,169	21,504	21,996	22,167	22,891
Pancreas	4,656	4,587	4,737	5,021	5,041	5,128	5,189	5,364	5,624	5,466
Larynx	1,443	1,480	1,501	1,607	1,577	1,603	1,588	1,625	1,637	1,652
Lung	29,785	29,742	31,043	31,960	31,912	32,330	33,492	33,395	34,359	34,817
Melanoma of the skin	1,097	1,242	1,372	1,444	1,503	1,553	1,560	1,674	1,822	1,960
Breast (female)	17,647	18,709	19,165	20,287	19,603	19,118	19,803	20,339	20,166	21,175
Cervix	3,794	3,650	3,710	3,642	3,618	3,526	3,554	3,475	3,630	3,772
Uterus	2,997	3,011	3,161	3,216	3,231	3,464	3,333	3,300	3,335	3,385
Ovary	3,842	3,852	3,723	3,956	3,901	3,938	4,164	4,046	4,160	4,356
Prostate	5,789	5,963	6,363	6,742	6,861	7,066	7,429	7,289	7,972	8,440
Testis	612	637	662	704	714	706	729	797	731	826
Kidney	2,086	2,118	2,245	2,316	2,447	2,366	2,532	2,498	2,573	2,692
Bladder	6,918	6,951	7,219	7,270	7,256	7,363	7,840	7,909	8,445	8,729
Brain	2,209	2,148	1,997	2,097	2,030	2,028	2,147	2,075	2,424	2,480
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	1,246	1,382	1,337	1,348	1,270	1,284	1,295	1,279	1,164	1,287
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	2,131	2,260	2,432	2,521	2,772	2,721	2,887	2,927	3,265	3,490
Multiple Myeloma	1,265	1,331	1,357	1,603	1,562	1,593	1,728	1,778	1,846	1,913
Leukaemia	3,565	3,844	4,011	4,226	4,183	4,110	4,389	4,326	3,956	4,042

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Persons 1994
All cancers	193,697	194,834	199,314	199,315	213,663	212,041	217,472	225,509	225,553	227,126
All cancers xnmsc[2]	172,388	173,606	176,575	176,800	188,084	184,507	189,538	194,770	194,533	196,487
Lip, mouth and pharynx	2,865	2,876	2,926	2,883	2,905	2,836	2,965	3,019	2,859	3,059
Oesophagus	3,818	3,924	3,904	4,128	4,280	4,339	4,603	4,744	4,785	4,981
Stomach	11,421	11,090	11,306	10,789	11,110	10,706	10,427	10,409	10,168	9,685
Colorectal	23,730	23,631	24,263	24,026	25,015	24,483	25,104	25,851	26,119	26,203
Pancreas	5,532	5,627	5,646	5,542	5,911	5,731	5,784	5,810	5,837	5,812
Larynx	1,666	1,705	1,656	1,738	1,750	1,759	1,861	1,923	1,873	1,846
Lung	35,466	35,558	35,758	35,035	37,095	35,290	35,399	35,716	34,451	34,262
Melanoma of the skin	2,136	2,220	2,375	2,365	2,994	2,999	3,432	3,879	3,613	3,505
Breast (female)	21,326	21,722	21,851	21,833	24,032	23,805	24,803	25,161	26,702	27,474
Cervix	3,782	3,706	3,672	3,793	4,053	4,025	3,988	4,039	3,790	3,884
Uterus	3,436	3,416	3,378	3,388	3,570	3,483	3,404	3,546	3,557	3,583
Ovary	4,332	4,337	4,540	4,484	4,744	4,636	4,852	4,776	4,807	4,732
Prostate	8,784	9,161	9,534	9,672	10,534	10,805	11,151	11,837	11,891	12,518
Testis	886	865	841	953	1,025	1,084	1,128	1,187	1,227	1,199
Kidney	2,824	2,980	3,135	3,157	3,289	3,232	3,394	3,528	3,827	3,908
Bladder	9,150	9,083	9,404	9,574	10,242	10,066	10,165	10,706	10,654	10,678
Brain	2,549	2,450	2,601	2,661	2,788	2,687	2,832	2,932	2,975	2,948
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	1,207	1,177	1,167	1,148	1,250	1,185	1,137	1,114	1,100	1,130
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	3,711	3,788	3,977	4,225	4,671	4,757	5,114	5,570	5,601	5,733

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	Persons 1994
Multiple Myeloma	2,018	2,063	2,152	2,218	2,516	2,353	2,530	2,615	2,508	2,463
Leukaemia	4,277	4,307	4,477	4,413	4,844	4,443	4,683	5,034	4,883	4,810

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Persons 2004
All cancers	231,915	240,885	237,278	243,285	245,012	245,358	251,775	263,207	267,805	272,992
All cancers xnmsc[2]	199,844	206,735	204,875	209,164	209,137	209,564	211,624	216,702	221,064	223,609
Lip, mouth and pharynx	3,114	3,353	3,225	3,396	3,302	3,424	3,615	3,670	3,990	4,090
Oesophagus	5,050	5,371	5,397	5,611	5,497	5,476	5,672	5,730	5,893	6,033
Stomach	9,369	9,448	8,983	8,914	8,614	8,365	8,455	8,170	7,875	7,865
Colorectal	26,185	27,617	26,970	26,983	27,007	27,872	27,884	29,021	29,088	28,902
Pancreas	5,919	5,809	5,720	5,642	5,629	5,607	5,527	5,529	5,882	5,924
Larynx	1,809	1,890	1,871	1,951	1,794	1,799	1,812	1,790	1,769	1,903
Lung	34,227	34,928	33,356	33,317	32,728	31,396	31,285	31,327	31,137	31,090
Melanoma of the skin	3,559	3,893	4,429	4,465	4,577	4,487	4,703	5,000	5,041	5,821
Breast (female)	29,116	29,665	28,618	29,490	29,904	30,412	31,380	32,908	34,176	33,829
Cervix	3,340	3,171	3,090	2,976	2,837	2,737	2,607	2,594	2,642	2,424
Uterus	3,695	3,673	3,754	3,822	3,850	3,932	4,016	4,086	4,298	4,730
Ovary	4,923	4,924	4,920	4,929	5,368	5,408	5,621	5,653	5,569	5,512
Prostate	13,339	14,809	16,022	18,204	17,973	18,837	18,201	19,335	20,842	23,109
Testis	1,268	1,316	1,338	1,303	1,464	1,423	1,411	1,541	1,676	1,648
Kidney	3,952	4,139	4,217	4,434	4,317	4,500	4,833	4,749	4,860	5,084
Bladder	10,730	11,190	11,211	11,028	11,207	10,614	10,387	10,528	10,524	9,221
Brain	2,969	3,329	3,263	3,269	3,408	3,358	3,471	3,462	3,461	3,706
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	1,019	1,154	1,108	1,104	1,063	1,054	1,068	1,187	1,150	1,254
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	6,080	6,253	6,303	6,669	6,559	6,607	6,821	7,187	7,646	7,811
Multiple Myeloma	2,610	2,645	2,664	2,693	2,899	2,729	2,650	3,128	3,145	3,295
Leukaemia	4,891	4,862	5,021	5,147	5,284	4,952	4,981	5,306	5,397	5,549

[1] Cancers are coded to the International Classification of Diseases (Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Revisions).
[2] All cancers except Non-melanoma of skin.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer in the local authority of Great Yarmouth, 1990-2004: 21 most common cancers, by site[1]

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Persons 1997
All cancers	508	532	579	519	523	552	529	565
All cancers xnmsc[2]	405	430	442	415	411	430	425	421
Lip, mouth and pharynx	10	6	10	8	9	8	6	8
Oesophagus	6	5	9	9	7	11	9	5
Stomach	31	17	24	21	24	28	15	19
Colorectal	66	64	67	56	69	52	55	57
Pancreas	9	13	10	9	16	9	9	7
Larynx	3	1	6	2	8	4	6	3
Lung	51	74	70	73	58	79	70	55
Melanoma of the skin	8	5	9	15	14	7	9	10
Breast (female)	55	63	64	72	52	57	56	70
Cervix	9	6	7	2	10	6	10	9
Uterus	7	10	8	9	7	10	9	14
Ovary	7	13	7	7	8	12	9	8

Table 2: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer in the local authority of Great Yarmouth, 1990-2004: 21 most common cancers, by site[1]

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Persons 1997
Prostate	31	43	32	36	40	31	47	37
Testis	0	4	1	6	4	2	2	4
Kidney	11	4	13	7	2	5	10	11
Bladder	17	20	17	11	17	25	24	20
Brain	7	7	9	6	3	6	6	9
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	1	2	3	1	1	3	1	3
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	16	11	11	8	14	14	15	10
Multiple Myeloma	6	7	5	6	5	6	4	7
Leukaemia	11	9	7	7	6	7	8	9

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Persons 2004
All cancers	601	632	626	684	609	706	650
All cancers xnmsc[2]	464	492	475	520	459	546	504
Lip, mouth and pharynx	7	6	9	7	10	11	4
Oesophagus	18	23	15	15	9	9	14
Stomach	22	20	13	15	17	17	12
Colorectal	51	65	59	78	66	74	68
Pancreas	13	15	13	7	6	19	19
Larynx	3	2	5	4	6	5	4
Lung	69	61	64	75	53	63	67
Melanoma of the skin	21	10	10	8	14	25	20
Breast (female)	59	86	62	57	68	95	71
Cervix	6	4	2	1	8	4	6
Uterus	8	14	13	13	23	19	6
Ovary	13	9	13	17	2	7	10
Prostate	47	60	58	63	67	54	52
Testis	4	3	5	0	3	2	8
Kidney	9	13	17	14	19	17	11
Bladder	18	17	22	28	13	21	29
Brain	10	7	7	4	9	5	7
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	1	4	3	3	1	2	3
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	17	6	14	13	9	24	28
Multiple Myeloma	5	6	5	17	8	5	5
Leukaemia	11	19	14	10	7	21	10

[1] Cancers are coded to the International Classification of Diseases (Ninth and Tenth Revisions).
[2] All cancers except Non-melanoma of skin.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Cancers are coded to the International Classification of Diseases (8th, 9th and 10th revisions)

	ICD-8	ICD-9	ICD-10
All cancers	140-207	140-208	C00-97
All cancers xnmsc	140-172, 174-207	140-172, 174-208	C00-43, C45-97
Colorectal	153-154	153-154	C18-21
Stomach	151	151	C16
Oesophagus	150	150	C15
Lip, mouth and pharynx	140-149	140-149	C00-14
Pancreas	157	157	C25
Larynx	161	161	C32
Lung	162	162	C33-34
Melanoma	172	172	C43

Cancers are coded to the International Classification of Diseases (8th, 9th and 10th revisions)

	ICD-8	ICD-9	ICD-10
Breast	174	174	C50
Cervix	180	180	C53
Uterus	182.0	182	C54
Ovary	183	183	C56-57
Prostate	185	185	C61
Testis	186	186	C62
Kidney	189	189	C64-66, C68
Bladder	188	188	C67
Brain	191	191	C71
Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma	200, 202	200, 202	C82-85, C91.4, C96

Cancers are coded to the International Classification of Diseases (8th, 9th and 10th revisions)

	ICD-8	ICD-9	ICD-10
Hodgkin's Lymphoma	201	201	C81
Multiple Myeloma	203	203	C88, C90
Leukaemia	204-207	204-208	C91-91.3, C91.5-C95

Child Trust Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 689W, on the child trust fund, how much time Sheree Murphy spent *(a)* giving interviews and *(b)* participating in photoshoots to promote child trust funds. [134703]

Ed Balls: Sheree Murphy was contracted for four and a half days to give interviews and participate in photoshoots to promote Child Trust Funds.

Corporation Tax

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the potential reductions in *(a)* corporation and *(b)* income tax avoidance from the increase in the rate of corporation tax announced in the Budget 2007. [135230]

John Healey: The increase in the small companies' rate of corporation tax will reduce the tax advantage for a self-employed person to incorporate and receive labour income as dividends. This impact increases corporation tax collected but reduces income tax and national insurance collected.

The measure will increase the corporation tax paid by those who have incorporated for tax reasons and will reduce the incentive for others to engage in this behaviour. The reduction in overall tax advantage depends on income level. For a self-employed person earning £30,000, the incentive to incorporate and take labour income as dividends will reduced by around £1,000 by 2009-10.

As the Chancellor noted in his Budget speech, if the tax-motivated incorporation is not tackled, it could cost the rest of the tax-paying population billions of pounds.

Cabinet Office Capability Review

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a Cabinet Office Capability Review is planned for HM Treasury. [134397]

John Healey: I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Tatton (Mr. Osborne) on 13 September 2006, *Official Report*, column 2335W.

Departments: Africa

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 407W, on Departments: Africa, where *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials stayed in each country for each trip in January 2005. [134401]

John Healey: The Chancellor visited Africa in January 2005 in preparation for the G7 focus on development which, under the UK presidency, led to a pledge to double aid to Africa by 2010. The delegation stayed in the following cities:

Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania)
Maputo (Mozambique)
Johannesburg (RSA) and
Cape Town (RSA).

Departments: Consultants

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many external consultants are employed by his Department; [134563]

(2) how much his Department spent on external consultants in each year since 1997. [134564]

John Healey: HM Treasury controls consultancy spending by cost, and not by headcount. Information on the total number of consultants engaged at any point in time is not held. The provisional outturn for the total spent on external consultants in 2006-07 by HM Treasury is £5.14 million. I refer to the answers given to my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Mr. Cousins) on 14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2128W and the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 721W, which detail consultancy costs for the financial years 2000-06. Figures for the years prior to 2000-01 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In line with Office of Government Commerce guidance, in 2006-07 HM Treasury changed its definition of 'consultancy' to include advice on design and development of services, but exclude delivery of services on a longer term contracted out basis. Figures for prior years have not been restated.

Departments: Grievance Procedures

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld; [134820]

(2) how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Department in the last 12 months; [135164]

(3) how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135382]

John Healey: In the last 12 months fewer than five grievances have been raised and investigated. No complaints of bullying or of sexual harassment have been upheld. As the number of complaints of bullying and of sexual harassment was fewer than five, the exact number cannot be disclosed on grounds of confidentiality.

Departments: India

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Ministers in his Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135546]

John Healey: The Chancellor of the Exchequer visited India in January 2007. All ministerial visits are conducted in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers". Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 and the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134051]

John Healey: For details of the percentage of such paper used for photocopying and publications issued in the year 2004-05, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 21 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 1306W. Our policy has not changed.

From 2005 to present, the Treasury's Publishing Unit used recycled paper for all standard format publications and printed materials.

Departments: Plants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on the supply and maintenance of plants and flowers in 2006-07. [133298]

John Healey: The provisional outturn for the Treasury's expenditure on the supply and maintenance of plants and flowers is £15,000 in 2006-07. The Debt Management Office spent £2,000.

Departments: Press

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on newspapers and periodicals in 2006-07. [133439]

John Healey: The provisional outturn for the Treasury's expenditure on newspapers and periodicals in 2006-07 was £109,000.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on overseas travel in each year since 1997. [134554]

John Healey: The provisional outturn for the total spent by the Treasury on overseas travel in 2006-07 was £1,573,000. For the earlier years, I refer to the answers given to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 719W, and to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 19 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 44W.

Duty Free Allowances

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress has been made by the European Commission on his proposal to increase the duty free allowance to £1,000; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [134444]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 402W, to my hon. Friend the hon. Member from Cannock Chase (Dr. Wright).

HMT and HMRC Officials met stakeholders during negotiation of the new tax free allowance for travellers returning from outside the EU. We have also received a small number of letters regarding implementation of the higher allowance since it was agreed.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised through vehicle excise duty in each year since 1997. [134565]

John Healey: The Department for Transport publish statistics of Vehicle Excise Duty revenues which are broken down into vehicle category in their annual transport statistics bulletin. This is available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics

Group of Seven

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on his Department's delegation to attend the last G7 Finance Ministers' meeting in Washington DC. [134571]

John Healey: All ministerial visits are conducted in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers". Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 and the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

Managed Service Companies

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will place in the Library a copy of the responses to the consultation tackling managed service companies of December 2006. [134711]

John Healey: The Government have received a Freedom of Information request for the same information from the hon. Member.

The Treasury is actively considering issues around the confidentiality of the information provided by the respondents to the consultation and will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Middle East

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a Minister in his Department last visited *(a)* Bahrain, *(b)* Kuwait, *(c)* Oman, *(d)* Qatar, *(e)* Saudi Arabia, *(f)* the United Arab Emirates and *(g)* Yemen on official business. [131352]

John Healey: All ministerial visits are conducted in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel

by Ministers". Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 and the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. I can confirm that the Chancellor attended the International Monetary and Financial Committee meetings in Dubai in September 2003 and passed through Dubai in March 2007. The Chancellor visited Riyadh in November 2005 and passed through Abu Dhabi en route. The Chancellor also passed through Kuwait in November 2006. The Economic Secretary visited the United Arab Emirates in November 2006 and the Paymaster General visited the United Arab Emirates in January 2007.

Money Laundering

Mark Durkan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to establish a new unit within HM Revenue and Customs to deal with cases of money laundering. [135251]

John Healey: HMRC already has units responsible for dealing with money laundering. Action to combat money laundering is an integral part of HMRC's operational efforts to counter fiscal fraud against the UK's tax and duty systems and to protect the integrity of the UK's frontier controls. In addition, a unit is being created to deal with HMRC's specific regulatory responsibility relating to the licensing regime that becomes mandatory in December 2007 under the Third Money Laundering Directive.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died from multiple sclerosis in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [135315]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 2 May 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from multiple sclerosis in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) England in each year since 1997. (135315)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where multiple sclerosis was the underlying cause in (a) Jarrow parliamentary constituency, (b) South Tyneside local authority, (c) North East government office region and (d) England, from 1997 to 2005 (the latest year available).

Number of deaths with multiple sclerosis as the underlying cause of death[1], Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority, North-east Government office region, England[2], 1997 to 2005[3]

Deaths (persons)

	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North East	England
1997	1	3	30	661
1998	0	0	38	698
1999	0	1	39	723
2000	1	1	31	659
2001	1	1	44	849
2002	0	0	35	861
2003	1	2	61	935
2004	2	4	49	838
2005	1	3	50	900

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 340 for the years 1996 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code G35 for 2001 onwards. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.

[2] Based on local authority boundaries as of 2007.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 485W, on national insurance contributions, what steps he has taken to rectify letters relating to the non-payment of national insurance contributions in the 2004-05 tax year sent in error. [131409]

John Healey: During 2006-07, HM Revenue and Customs sent 4.7 million letters to customers advising them of a potential shortfall in their National insurance contributions for the 2004-05 tax year. The majority of these letters were correct but some contained incorrect information.

HMRC contacted many of the employers involved and also worked closely with representative bodies to inform their members. The vast majority of the 2004-05 end of year information has now been processed successfully. Where a letter had been sent in error, HMRC has either sent, or is in the process of sending, a follow-up letter explaining that sufficient NI contributions have been paid and that 2004-05 is now a qualifying year for benefit purposes.

Any employees who are still waiting for a follow-up letter, or are unsure of their NI position, can send a copy of their 2004-05 P60 to the address on the deficiency notice and HMRC will investigate their case.

Patients: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions the Office for National Statistics has had with Dacorum Primary Care Trust on the number of patients registered in Hemel Hempstead constituency. [135326]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 2 May 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what discussions the Office for National Statistics has had with Dacorum Primary Care Trust on the number of patients registered in Hemel Hempstead constituency. (135326)

I can confirm that we have had two data requests from Dacorum PCT with regards to population estimates. Other than this I am not aware of Dacorum PCT contacting ONS with regards to the number of patients registered in Hemel Hempstead constituency.

Revenue and Customs: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs staff were employed in Great Yarmouth in each year since 1997. [134318]

John Healey: Before HM Revenue and Customs was created in April 2005, HM Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue both had offices at Great Yarmouth. The following table shows the total staff employed at Great Yarmouth for HM Revenue and Customs (and for the component Departments prior to 2005) as at 1 April each year from 2001. No records exist for previous years.

	Staff numbers (headcount)
2001	210
2002	197
2003	193
2004	190
2005	186
2006	176
2007	153

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the cost implications caused by rent charges of moving HM Revenue and Customs staff from Great Yarmouth to Norwich. [134320]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is undertaking a review of all its accommodation to bring it into line with business requirements, and expects to make substantial savings on its accommodation running costs.

The review of the cluster of HMRC offices comprising Great Yarmouth, Norwich and East Dereham is planned to take place later this year. No such estimate has yet been made. No decisions on the future of any of these offices will be made until the review process is completed.

Revenue and Customs: Pay

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether any HM Revenue and Customs inspectors receive incentive payments related to their collection of revenue. [135182]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs inspectors do not receive payments related to the collection of revenue.

Robert Shrum

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what work Robert Shrum has undertaken for HM Treasury since 1997. [134405]

John Healey: None. HM Treasury has not contracted Robert Shrum to do any work.

Sequestration of Assets: Iran

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will sequester appropriate assets of the government of Iran as compensation for Ministry of Defence equipment seized and not returned in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007; and if he will make a statement. [133581]

Des Browne: I have been asked to reply.

We will continue to press the Iranian authorities for the return of the boats and equipment seized by Iran in 2004 and 2007.

Small Businesses: Government Assistance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to foster the growth and development of small and medium sized enterprises. [134569]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 26 April 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 26 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 95WS. As my statement indicated, a wide range of activity is in hand and if any particular area interests the hon. Member I will be happy to update him.

Taxation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps his Department takes to inform people that they may be eligible to reclaim tax; and if he will make a statement. [134634]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1370-71W.

VAT: Bingo

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was received in VAT on participation fees for games of bingo in each year since its introduction; [134478]

(2) what assessment has he made of the impact on bingo clubs of *(a)* the imposition of VAT on participation fees, *(b)* the changes introduced in the 2007 Gaming Act and *(c)* the ban on smoking in public places. [134477]

John Healey: Total VAT receipts are published in the Financial Statement and Budget Report 2007. It is not possible to give the breakdown requested, or to assess the specific impact of the Budget changes on bingo clubs. However, the forecast total yield from the Budget changes to Gaming Duty was published in the Financial Statement and Budget Report.

The effect of the smoking ban was incorporated into the forecast of total gambling receipts, which includes bingo duty receipts, and was published in the Financial Statement and Budget Report.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to question 128930 on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 421W, if he will publish figures showing the number of notices of warning of legal proceedings if payment is not made which were sent to individuals claiming tax credits who were in dispute with HM Revenue and Customs in each month from April 2003 to March 2007. [133656]

Mr. Timms: It is HMRC's policy to suspend the recovery of overpayments while a dispute is being considered, and therefore should not issue notices of warning of legal proceedings while this is taking place.

Working Tax Credit

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims for working tax credits for households without children there were in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what the total expenditure on those claims was in that period. [133844]

John Healey: Estimates of the number of families without children claiming working tax credits in 2004-05, including information on total expenditure on these claims, is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-annual-0405.pdf

Figures for 2005-06 are due to be published on 22 May.

Youth for Europe

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Youth for Europe projects have been financed by the EU in the UK in the last 12 months. [133095]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

The Youth for Europe projects within the UK receiving EU funding in the last 12 months are shown in alphabetic order in the following list.

6VT Youth Cafe
98th Merchiston Scout Group
Aberdeen YMCA
ACE Motivational Courses
Acting Up Drama Group
Acton Vale Somali Community
Albert and Friends Instant Circus
Alhijra Somali Community Assoc
Antrim Youth Council
Ashford YMCA
Ballymena Youth Council
Bathgate PHAB Club
BID Services with Deaf People
Birches Community Association
Birmingham Youth Service
Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales
Bradford Youth Service
Brownlow Resource Centre
Burwell Church Youth Group
CAFK
Calling the Shots Films Ltd, Peasedown
Cardiff Young Peoples Forum
Cardiff Youth Service
Castle Hill Reformed Church
Centre 65, Chipping Campden
Challenge and Adventure
Chethams School of Music, Friday Club, Upton
Christ Church Youth Group
Colchester YMCA Foyer—Young Deaf Club
Community Youth Group, Penarth
Connexions West Yorkshire
Crossley House, Manchester
CVS, Preston
Cymdeithas Tai Hafan
Dacorum Borough Council
Dales United Youth FC
Department of Defence Dependents' Schools
Devon Federation of YFCs
Devon Youth Service: South Hams
Dialogue Youth
Docklands Outreach
Doncaster Youth Jazz Assoc
Down Youth Office
East Sussex County Council
Edinburgh Rudolf Steiner School
EISA London
Emerging Artistic Talent Southampton Ltd
Everything's Possible
Foyle Youth Bank
Gallowgate and Calton Children's Project Possibilities
Gladiator Explorer Scouts
Glasgow City Council
Grampus Heritage and Training
Grey Lodge Settlement
Hampshire County Youth Service
Hanley Castle High School St. Basils
Hartlepool Youth Service
Helensburgh District Explorer Scouts
Hendon Young Peoples Project,
Hinckley Youth Council
Hostelling International NI (Valve Project)
International Relations, Durham
Inverclyde Volunteering for Youths
Isaac Newton Arts Trust
Junction Swanley
Kent Community Housing Trust
Kent Youth & Community
Kettlethorpe Youth Centre, Wakefield
Leicester Stars FC
Lewisham Young Mayor's Advisory Group
Linlithgow Twinning Exchange
Mersea Outdoors
Middlesbrough Youth Service
Mourne Presbyterian Youth Fellowship
Muirhouse Youth Development Group
Neath Port Talbot Youth Service
Norfolk International Projects
North Ely Youth and Community Centre
North Lanarkshire Youth Council

Oldham Theatre Workshop
Patrician Youth Centre
Peterlee Youth Centre
Powys CC Youth Services
Purley Crusaders
Rathcoole/Sunlea Area Youth Project
REACH Across
Revelation Youth Group
Royal Borough Kensington and Chelsea
Rural Futures
Rushmoor Borough Council
Saffron Walden High School
Scottish Deaf Association
Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Team
South Cheltenham Detached Youth Work Team
South Shropshire Youth Forum
Spelthorne Youth Council
Spirit of Enniskillen Trust
St. Oswalds West End Centre
St. Teresa's Youth Centre
Staffordshire Youth Service
Streetsoul
Sutton Coldfield YMCA
Taghnevan Youth Club
Teesside Colleges, Stockton
Thamesmead Youth Centre
The Astor Youth Group
The Box Youth Project,
The Henry Box School
The Lift MYA, Liverpool
The Sweatbox
Theatr Fforwm Cymru
Torbay Youth Service
Trafford Youth Service, Manchester
UNA, Cardiff
Wakefield Young People's Service
Wales Youth Action
Wellhouse Community Trust, Hazelwood
West Bowling People's Project
West Dunbartonshire Council
West Lothian/Hochsauerlandkeis Exchange
WIDEA
Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster
Young Xplorers, Newcastle
Youth Centre
Youth Learning Service

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Business Link

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding was given to Business Link in each of the last three years. [134432]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

In each of the last three years, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) have provided the following levels of funding for the Business Link service:

	£ million
2004-05	140
2005-06	140
2006-07	140

Source:
The Small Business Service Agency Annual Accounts and Reports

The budgets from the DTI are made available through the "single pot" of money allocated to Regional Development Agencies.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the 2007-08 Budget is for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service; and what the budget was in each of the last five years. [134251]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave her on 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 719W. The information requested in respect of 2003-04 and 2002-03 is in the table.

	£
2003-04	95,000,000 (on a resource basis, plus 2,500,000 provision for transition to resource accounting)[1]
2002-03	84,500,000 (on a cash basis)[1]

[1] Includes the budget for CAFCASS Cymru

Children in Care

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children are in local authority care in England, broken down by ethnic background. [132749]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The number of children who are in local authority care in England broken down by ethnic background at 31 March 2006 is shown in the following table.

Children looked after at 31 March 2006 by ethnicity[1, 2], England

Ethnic origin	*All children looked after at 31 March 2006 (Number)*
All children[1, 2]	60,300
White	47,200
White British	45,100
White Irish	450
Any other White background	1,600
Mixed	5,000
White and Black Caribbean	1,900
White and Black African	420
White and Asian	730
Any other mixed background	2,000
Asian or Asian British	2,000
Indian	300
Pakistani	610
Bangladeshi	270
Any other Asian background	870

Children looked after at 31 March 2006 by ethnicity[1, 2], England

Ethnic origin	*All children looked after at 31 March 2006 (Number)*
Black or Black British	4,900
Caribbean	1,600
African	2,400
Any other Black background	920
Other ethnic groups	1,200
Chinese	120
Any other ethnic group	1,100

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[2] To preserve the confidentiality of each individual child, figures at national level have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
Source:
SSDA903 return

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many looked after children who went missing from care were victims of a crime against the person while missing in each of the last five years; [122375]

(2) how many children who went missing from care in each of the last five years subsequently disclosed abuse as the reason for running away. [122376]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on:

(1) the number of looked after children who went missing from care in each of the last five years who were victims of a crime against the person while missing; and

(2) the number of looked after children who went missing from care in each of the last five years who subsequently disclosed abuse as the reason for running away is not collected by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

City Academies

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total construction cost was of each completed academy. [133036]

Jim Knight: There are 26 academies open where construction work has been completed. The cost of each is detailed in the following table. These figures presented are as at March 2007 and are subject to change as final accounts have yet to be agreed.

	Academy	*Cost (£ million rounded to nearest half million)*
1	Bexley Business Academy[1]	38.5
2	Walsall City Academy	17.5
3	Greig City Academy, Haringey	16.5
4	Capital City Academy, Brent	27.0
5	Lambeth Academy	25.5
6	King's Academy, Middlesbrough	22.5
7	Unity City Academy, Middlesbrough	22.0
8	The West London Academy, Ealing	31.0
9	Stockley Academy, Hillingdon	28.0
10	Djanogly City Academy, Nottingham	23.5
11	The Academy at Peckham, Southwalk	30.0
12	Bristol City Academy	27.5
13	Manchester Academy	20.0
14	Mossbourne Community Academy, Hackney	28.5
15	The Academy of St Francis of Assisi, Liverpool	21.0
16	Northampton Academy	27.5
17	City of London Academy, Southwark	33.5
18	Trinity Academy, Doncaster	25.0
19	Marlowe Academy, Kent	28.0
20	London Academy, Barnet	31.5
21	Sandwell Academy	27.0
22	Grace Academy, Solihull	31.5
23	Salford City Academy	16.5
24	David Young Community Academy, Leeds	23.5
25	Dixons City Academy, Bradford[2]	6.5
26	Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy, Lewisham[2]	7.0

[1] The Business Academy, Bexley is an "all through" academy catering for pupils from age three to 19. This cost includes the cost of both the primary school and secondary school.
[2] Dixons and Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham are both conversions from city technology colleges.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of governors on the governing body of each academy are local authority governors. [133037]

Jim Knight: The composition of each academy governing body is described in its memorandum and articles. However, as the academy trust is able to co-opt additional members, the precise composition of each governing body at any point in time is not known by the Department, and we are unable to say how many local authority governors there are, or what proportion they represent of academy governing bodies.

While the size and precise composition of an academy governing body is not prescribed by the Department, like other state-funded schools, academies have stakeholder governors. Departmental policy is that each academy should have a local authority appointed governor and a parent governor. Academy governing bodies may also include the Academy principal (as an ex-officio member), a teacher governor (either elected or appointed); a staff governor (either elected or appointed), and may include community representatives.

Classroom Assistants: Pay and Manpower

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much was paid in salaries to *(a)* learning support assistants and *(b)* teaching assistants in (i) pupil referral units, (ii) special needs units attached to mainstream schools, (iii) resourced

provision, units and special classes in maintained mainstream schools and (iv) maintained special schools in each year between 1997 and 2007; [132388]

(2) how many teaching assistants were employed in *(a)* pupil referral units, *(b)* special needs units attached to mainstream schools, *(c)* resourced provision; units and special classes in maintained mainstream schools and *(d)* maintained special schools in each year between 1997 and 2007; [132389]

(3) how many learning support assistants there were in *(a)* pupil referral units, *(b)* special needs units attached to mainstream schools, *(c)* resourced provision, units and special classes in maintained mainstream schools and *(d)* maintained special schools in each of the years between 1997 and 2007. [132390]

Jim Knight: Information on the salaries paid to learning support assistants, teaching assistants and other school support staff is not collected centrally.

"The Deployment and Impact of Support Staff in Schools" is an ongoing research project commissioned by the Department. It started in 2004 and will run to 2009. One strand of the project is a survey conducted in 2004 with a sample of support staff. The sample was not representative but the results were weighted to account for any bias in the sample. Amongst other things, the questionnaire asked about their pay. Support staff in special schools reported a mean hourly wage of £9.06. This compared with £7.90 and £9.55 for support staff in primary and secondary schools respectively. Teaching assistant equivalent staff across the maintained sector reported a mean hourly wage of £8.66. "Teaching Assistant Equivalent" includes teaching assistants, learning support assistants for SEN pupils, nursery nurses and therapists. The full wave one report can be found at: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR776.pdf and the next interim report is due during summer 2007.

Information on learning support assistants is collected within the overall number of teaching assistants but is not available as a separate category. Numbers of special needs support staff are however available separately. In addition numbers cannot be provided separately for units and classes within mainstream schools.

The following table provides the number of full-time equivalent teaching assistants employed in pupil referral units, maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools and maintained special schools in England from January 1997 to 2006 and is the latest information available. The number of those who are special needs support staff are also provided.

Full-time equivalent teaching assistants[1] employed in pupil referral units[1], maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools and maintained special schools in England, January 1997 to 2006

Thousand

	Pupil referral units		*Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools*		*Maintained special schools*	
	Teaching assistants	*Of which: Special needs support staff[2]*	*Teaching assistants*	*Of which: Special needs support staff*	*Teaching assistants*	*Of which: Special needs support staff[2]*
1997	—	260	49,690	24,250	10,620	—
1998	—	370	53,800	25,680	11,370	—
1999	—	430	57,240	29,110	11,930	—
2000	—	540	65,830	31,890	12,650	—
2001[2]	—	620	80,970	37,040	13,400	—
2002[2]	890	310	91,310	39,310	13,160	7,000
2003	1,330	490	104,540	39,930	15,320	5,880
2004	1,830	490	114,500	40,620	15,730	5,300
2005	2,070	530	127,880	41,020	17,050	6,440
2006	1,970	430	132,530	40,980	18,610	6,130

[1] Whilst the overall collection of support staff data for schools was successful, it is possible that some discontinuity in the time series data has resulted from underlying change in data collection.
[2] When PLASC was introduced in 2002 data collection forms were standardised throughout all sectors.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Annual School Census

Community Champions Fund

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which organisations have received funding from the Community Champions Fund since its inception; what plans he has for the future budget of the Community Champions Fund in forthcoming financial years; and if he will make a statement. [133640]

Mr. Dhanda: Community Champions funding supports individuals rather than organisations. Individuals can apply for up to £2,000 to run innovative projects in their community. The total number of awards in 2005-06 was 1,769; the average award was £1,250. Funding is currently available until the end of March 2008.

The purpose of the comprehensive spending review settlement for this Department is to deliver key priorities for children, young people and learners over the period 2008-11. Decisions to be taken over the coming months will permit more detailed announcements to be made in due course about the allocation of resources, but it is unlikely that extension of the Community Champions Fund will be given priority over programmes that more directly impact on outcomes for children and young people.

Child Care: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland are eligible for financial support for child care. [134867]

Beverley Hughes: All three and four-year-olds can benefit from 12.5 hours a week free early years provision, irrespective of the employment status of their parents. This will rise to 15 hours a week by 2010.

The Office for National Statistics shows the North East region having a population of 52,100[1] three and four-year-olds, and the 2006 Early Years and Schools Censuses show the number of part time early education places funded by the free entitlement for three and four-year-olds in the North East region as 50,900[2]. The number of part time early education places funded by the free entitlement for three and four year olds in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency
area was 1,900[1].

A pilot scheme for disadvantaged two-year-olds offering 7.5 hours per week free early years provision is also available in Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Durham and South Tyneside until March 2008. This will benefit a total of 1,200 children in the North East.

The child care element of working tax credit (WTC) is available for meeting up to 80 per cent. of the cost of registered or approved childcare to a maximum cost of £175 a week for one child and £300 a week for two children or more. The average number of families in each constituency benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit in 2004-05 is available in the HMRC statistical publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Awards 2004-05. Geographical analyses", which is available on the HMRC website at: www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm. Estimates for 2005-06 are due to be published in May.

In addition to the child care element of working tax credits, child care used by parents can be subsidised in a variety of ways including local authority subsidies, Jobcentre Plus new deals, care to learn, learner support funds and NHS child care allowances. Wider data on eligibility for financial support for child care are not however available centrally.

[1] As at December 2005. ONS population estimates are aggregated to age groupings of at least five years. Figures based on a single year of age at the sub-national level are therefore of limited reliability.

[2] The number of children benefiting from some form of free early education can exceed the number of free part-time early education places taken up by children as a place may be taken up by more than one child.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on hospitality by his Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133248]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's rules on hospitality adhere to the principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Approval must be sought in advance from the appropriate director or Board member for all hospitality expenses. The Department's provisional outturn for such expenditure in 2006-07 was £4,372.

Diplomas for England

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which schools in the London borough of Havering have been selected as pilot schools for the introduction of the new diplomas for England. [134551]

Jim Knight: On 28 March I announced the first 145 consortia (groups of schools, colleges and training providers) across 97 local authorities that have been given approval to offer one or more of the first five 14 to 19 diplomas from September 2008. We have always been clear that the bar was set high so that although there were a lot of assessments submitted with good elements, only those consortia who demonstrated they were able to provide high quality delivery across all the criteria from September 2008 were included in the first group. Consortia from the London borough of Havering were not approved for delivery from September 2008, but we have provided a support package to help them prepare for a future gateway.

Educational Psychology

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will make a statement on the role of educational psychologists in the Every Child Matters scheme; [133873]

(2) how many educational psychologists qualified in each year since 1997; [133874]

(3) what the reasons were for reductions in funding for educational psychologists' training; and if he will make a statement; [133875]

(4) what steps he is taking to ensure that enough educational psychologists are being trained to meet demand; [133876]

(5) what progress has been made in retrieving funding provided to local councils that was allocated to the training of educational psychologists; and if he will make a statement. [133881]

Mr. Dhanda: Educational psychologists (EPs) play an important role in assessing special educational needs and in helping to formulate support arrangements for children with a wide range of needs, including those with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties. The value of their contribution was confirmed by a recent independent study, conducted by the School of Education, University of Manchester, published by the DfES on 31 August 2006. A copy of the report, "A Review of the Functions and Contribution of Educational Psychologists in England and Wales in light of "Every Child Matters: Changes for Children", Research Report No 792", was placed in the House of Commons Library, and can also be accessed via the Department's research website:

www.dfes.gov.uk/research

Information on the number of those who qualify annually as EPs is not collected centrally.

With regard to EP entry training arrangements, and associated funding, I would refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1181-82W.

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many educational psychologists qualified in each of the last 10 years for which data are available; and how many he expects to qualify in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; [135192]

(2) how many training places for educational psychologists were funded in each year between 2000 and 2006; how many he expects to be funded in 2007; and if he will make a statement on the level and allocation of funding by the Local Government Association. [135193]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 30 April 2007]*: Information on the number of those who qualify as educational psychologists, and the number of funded EP training places, is not collected centrally.

With regard to funding arrangements for the training of EPs, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1181-82W.

EU-Canada Joint Committee on Higher Education Training and Youth

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the agenda of the last meeting of the EU-Canada Joint Committee on Higher Education, Training and Youth. [133076]

Bill Rammell: The agendas of meetings of the EU-Canada Joint Committee on Higher Education, Training and Youth are internal documents of the European Commission and are not held by my Department. An application can be made with the European Commission to release the requested document.

Further Education: Finance

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what funding was available for further education colleges to support *(a)* NVQ Level 2, *(b)* NVQ Level 3 and *(c)* NVQ Level 4 in upholstery and soft furnishing in each year between 1996 and 2006; [132091]

(2) what funding was provided to further education colleges to enable students to undertake qualifications in upholstery and soft furnishing in each year between 1996 and 2006; and if he will make a statement. [132093]

Bill Rammell: We have increased public investment in further education by 48 per cent. in real terms between 1997-98 and 2005-06. Adult education funding will increase by 7 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2007-08, with funding for young people increasing by 13 per cent. over the same period. This means that overall in 2007-08, through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) we will invest £11.2 billion, an increase of £716 million compared with 2006-07.

Information on course subjects that learners are undertaking is only available from the LSC at the broad sector level. This does not allow for discrete subjects such as upholstery and soft furnishings to be identified, therefore it is not possible to provide details on the level of funding for these courses.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the availability of traditional upholstery skills courses in further education colleges in each year between 1996 and 2006. [132092]

Bill Rammell: Colleges have benefited from our 48 per cent. real terms increase in further education funding between 1997-98 and 2005-06. We have realigned funding to support our priorities and as announced on 15 March we have met our interim adult Level 2 target with a million more adults in the workforce with essential employability skills. Also more than 1.6 million learners have achieved Skills for Life qualifications in literacy, language and numeracy.

The structure and delivery of courses is the responsibility of the individual providers which means that we do not hold information on this centrally. It is therefore not possible to report on the number of traditional upholstery skills courses delivered by colleges in any given year.

Further Education: Standards

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many notices to improve were issued to further education colleges in each of the last three years; how many of these have been made public; and if he will make a statement. [134417]

Bill Rammell: Nine Notices to Improve (Notices) have been issued to further education colleges in the last three years. Four were as a result of an Ofsted inspection judgement of overall inadequate. The remaining five were issued as a result of the colleges failing to meet the minimum levels of performance.

Notices were introduced in 2006 following the commitment to eliminate failure set out in the White Paper, Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances. Notices are a process for setting additional conditions of funding to address underperformance within a specified time frame.

The LSC have not made any notices public and do not intend to do so.

A Level: Standards

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students entering English universities for the first time in 2006 did not have two grade E A levels or better A level qualifications. [133226]

Bill Rammell: In 2005/06, there were 2,620 entrants (2 per cent.) with one or more A levels who had fewer than 80 tariff points from these qualifications. The figures relate to 18-year-old English domiciled entrants to full time first degree courses at English higher education institutions who have obtained one or more A levels. A grade E at A level is worth 40 tariff points.

Tariff points are not to be the only factor universities consider in assessing potential to succeed in HE. In 2004, Professor Steven Schwartz conducted an independent review of admissions to HE. The report makes clear that while prior educational attainment data (e.g. 'A' levels) remain the best indicator of success at undergraduate level, equal exams results may not represent equal potential to succeed in HE, and that universities can usefully consider other factors. The Schwartz Group recommended an 'holistic assessment' of applicants which included consideration of contextual factors, given the variation of learners' opportunities and circumstances.

Graduates: Qualifications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of university graduates qualified in *(a)* physics, *(b)* engineering and *(c)* mathematics in each of the last 15 years. [134411]

Bill Rammell: The latest figures are shown in the tables. Data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency are only available from 1994/95 onwards; figures for the previous years are taken from published sources which do not separately identify Physics and Mathematics.

Number and proportion of students obtaining first degree qualifications by subject area, UK higher and further education institutions, years[1] 1991 to 1993

	Subject			
	Physical Sciences[2]	Engineering and Technology	Mathematical and Computing Sciences[3]	All Subjects
Number				
1991	9,400	17,400	8,700	161,500
1992	10,200	18,800	9,800	178,700
1993	10,800	19,400	10,900	189,200
Proportion (Percentage)				
1991	6	11	5	100
1992	6	11	5	100
1993	6	10	6	100

[1] Figures are given on a calendar year basis and not an academic year; therefore they are not comparable to the figures in the table.
[2] Including Physics.
[3] Including Mathematics.
Notes:
The figures are compiled from data collected by the Universities Statistical Record (USR), covering students at former—UFC funded universities, and the education departments of the four home countries, covering students at non-university HE and FE institutions.
Source:
Education Statistics for the United Kingdom 1993,1994 and 1995 editions.

Number of students obtaining first degree qualifications by subject area[1], UK higher education institutions, academic years 1994/95 to 2005/06

	Subject					
Academic year	Physical Sciences	Of which: Physics	Engineering and Technology	Mathematical Sciences	Of which: Mathematics	All Subjects
Number						
1994/95	13,440	2,480	22,085	4,070	3,435	237,795
1995/96	13,785	2,000	23,320	4,070	3,385	251,250
1996/97	14,070	2,440	23,015	3,705	3,115	255,260
1997/98	13,295	2,320	22,575	3,940	3,370	258,755
1998/99	13,055	2,320	22,010	4,250	3,640	263,670
1999/2000	13,185	2,300	20,550	4,095	3,545	265,265
2000/01 [2]	13,205	2,450	20,490	4,295	3,720	272,665
2001/02	12,415	2,210	20,285	4,125	3,725	27[illegible]
2002/03	12,475	2,205	19,455	5,100	4,390	282,380
2003/04	11,995	2,180	19,780	5,395	4,655	292,090
2004/05	12,530	2,235	19,575	5,270	4,575	306,365
2005/06	12,900	2,365	19,765	5,500	4,815	315,985
Proportions (Percentage)						
1994/95	6	1	9	2	1	100
1995/96	5	1	9	2	1	100
1996/97	6	1	9	1	1	100
1997/98	5	1	9	2	1	100
1998/99	5	1	8	2	1	100
1999/2000	5	1	8	2	1	100
2000/01 [2]	5	1	8	2	1	100
2001/02	5	1	7	2	1	100
2002/03	4	1	7	2	2	100
2003/04	4	1	7	2	2	100
2004/05	4	1	6	2	1	100
2005/06	4	1	6	2	2	100

[1] In 2002/03 the coding frame and the method of recording subject of study was changed. The Joint Academic Classification Scheme (JACS) was introduced which although similar to the previous coding frame, is not directly comparable. Additionally, figures are on a full person equivalent basis whereby a student is apportioned between each of their subjects of study.
[2] From 2000/01 students qualifying from a dormant mode of study are included in the figures; they are excluded in all previous years. Incoming exchange students are excluded from the figures from 2000/01 onwards; they were included in all previous years.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record

The latest figures from UCAS for students applying to enter full-time undergraduate courses in 2007 show that applications for these subjects have risen significantly: Physics is up by 12 per cent., Mathematics by 10 per cent. and most of the engineering subjects are also up including chemical engineering (by 16 per cent.), Civil engineering (by 13 per cent.) and Mechanical engineering (by 8 per cent.).

Higher Education: Scholarships

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many and what percentage of UK higher education institutions spent their full budgeted levels on income-assessed non-repayable bursaries for undergraduate students in each year since 1996; [131418]

(2) what estimates have been made of the total value of unclaimed non-repayable bursaries and scholarships for students at higher education institutions in each year since 2001. [131427]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* The Department does not have these figures. Prior to 2006/07 bursaries were solely a matter for individual HE institutions and information was not collected centrally.

However, we are aware that following the introduction of access agreements in 2006, Higher Education Institutions have budgeted to spend in excess of £300 million on bursaries and scholarships benefiting students from low-income backgrounds and other underrepresented groups by 2010/11. The Office for Fair Access (OFFA) is responsible for the annual monitoring of access agreements from academic year 2006/07 and will report on the outcome in autumn/winter 2007.

As I said in the Higher Education debate on 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 483, I am aware that some concerns have been raised about a potential underspend on bursaries in some universities. I am monitoring that situation very closely and encourage any universities forecasting a genuine underspend on bursaries to invest in other measures to improve social inclusion. However, I am also aware that the scale of the underspend has been exaggerated in some reports.

Higher and Further Education: Student Numbers

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people were in *(a)* higher education and *(b)* further education in each of the last 20 years. [133356]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The latest available information on young students is given in the tables.

(a) Higher education

Number of young[1] UK domiciled students enrolled on higher education courses at higher and further education institutions[2] in Great Britain academic years 1986/87 to 2005/06

Academic year	Higher education
1986/87	359,450
1987/88	364,200
1988/89	368,485
1989/90	388,930
1990/91	414,565
1991/92	454,245
1992/93	489,260
1993/94	516,745
1994/95	532,335
1995/96	537,295
1996/97	550,030
1997/98	576,175
1998/99	601,275
1999/2000	617,925
2000/01	622,395
2001/02	627,600
2002/03	635,885
2003/04	646,460
2004/05 [3]	655,155
2005/06 [3]	678,350

[1] Young refers to students under the age of 21.
[2] Includes the Open University.
[3] Includes provisional estimates for HE students in further education colleges using 2003/04 data.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Universities Statistical Record (USR), the Open University, and the Education Departments of England, Scotland and Wales for the years up to 1993/94; Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), Learning and Skills Council, Scottish Executive, and Welsh Assembly for 1994/95 and later years.

(b) Further Education

Number of young[1] people enrolled on LSC-funded[2] FE provision academic years 1994/95[3] to 2005/06

Academic year	Further education
1994/95	625,600
1995/96	631,200
1996/97	676,300
1997/98	672,000
1998/99	645,800
1999/2000	634,100
2000/01	625,000
2001/02	647,100
2002/03	687,100
2003/04	699,200
2004/05	727,100
2005/06	744,000

[1] Young refers to students under the age of 19.
[2] Prior to 2001 further education provision was funded by the Further Education Funding Council (FEFC)
[3] The Further and Higher Education Act 1992 had the effect of incorporating FE colleges and Sixth Form colleges formerly maintained by LAs making them eligible to receive funds from the FEFC. As a result, data collections changed, and data on enrolments in FE are not available on a comparable basis prior to 1994/95.
Source:
1994/95 to 1995/96—FEFC: Student Statistics ISR/SFR22; 1996/97 to 2005/06—LSC Statittical First Release: ILR/SFR11 Further Education, Work Based Learning and Adult and Community Learning—Learner Numbers in England 2005/06.

Higher Education: Student Wastage

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students started an undergraduate degree course which they then failed to complete in each year since 1997. [131643]

Bill Rammell: The latest available figures are shown in the table.

Proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses at higher education institutions in England, who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another course.

	Proportion to neither obtain award nor transfer
1997-98	15.8
1998-99	15.8
1999-2000	15.9
2000-01	15.0
2001-02	13.8
2002-03	13.9
2003-04	14.4

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education" published by HESA.

The figure for 2004-05 will become available by the end of July 2007.

According to figures published by the OECD, the overall completion rate in UK universities and colleges of higher education is amongst the highest in the OECD countries.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the drop-out rate from degree level courses was in 2006. [133215]

Bill Rammell: Drop-out rates from degree level courses are given in table T5 of the performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). In 2003/04, the proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses at higher education institutions in England, who were projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another course, was 14.4 per cent., compared to a figure of 15.0 per cent. in 2000/01.

The 2003/04 figure is the latest available: the 2004/05 figure will become available in July 2007.

According to figures published by the OECD, the overall completion rate in UK universities and colleges of higher education is among the highest in the OECD countries.

Home Start: Cotswolds

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding is available for Home-Start in the Cotswolds; and if he will make a statement. [133888]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not directly fund Home-Start in the Cotswolds. The DfES has supported the national body, Home-Start UK since 2001 and is providing a strategic grant of £2.73 million in the current 2007-08 financial year. The grant to Home-Start UK is specifically to support capacity building activities of Home-Start UK services in England including national and regional staffing, training, and dissemination of resources to support the coverage of local scheme home visiting services.

Jean Monnet Programme

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the budget is of the European Union's Jean Monnet programme for 2007-08. [133549]

Bill Rammell: The European Union uses the calendar year for its financial calculations. For 2007, the European Commission's ex ante (forecast) budget for the Jean Monnet programme is €4,411,044.

Pupils: Age

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will make a statement on the rules regarding school starting age for children; [133767]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that parents are informed that it is not compulsory for a child to attend school until the term after his or her fifth birthday. [133768]

Jim Knight: Children become of compulsory school age at the start of the school term after they reach the age of five. Admission authorities may allow children to start school before they reach compulsory school age but, if they do so, parents offered a place at the school may ask that the date that their child is admitted be deferred until later in the school year or until he or she reaches compulsory school age in that school year. Where parents choose this option the place offered to them must be kept open and cannot be offered to another child. The school admissions code requires that this be made clear in published admission arrangements

Local authorities have a duty to provide advice and assistance to all parents in their area when they are choosing schools for their children and are required to publish a composite prospectus for parents each year with information about all the admission arrangements of all schools in their area. This includes admission to reception classes and the right parents have to request that admission be deferred.

School Milk

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many litres of milk were provided by the free school milk scheme per eligible pupil in England over the last 12 months. [128382]

Mr. Dhanda: This Department does not collect data on school milk provision in schools.

Local authorities (LAs) are not obliged to provide milk, but where they do so they must provide it free of charge to pupils entitled to receive a free school lunch.

LAs are free to make use of the EU school milk subsidy scheme (the subsidy), which reduces the cost of milk purchased in nursery and primary schools. Use of the subsidy makes milk more affordable to those parents who purchase school milk and reduces the cost to LAs of free milk provision.

Special Needs Education

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment he has made of special needs education in mainstream schools in England. [134768]

Mr. Dhanda: In October 2006 the Government published their response to the report from the Education and Skills Committee on special educational needs (SEN). The response referred to Ofsted's report

"Inclusion: does it matter where pupils are taught?" (July 2006) which showed significant improvements in SEN provision since publication of Ofsted's 2004 survey "Special Educational Needs and Disability: towards inclusive schools?"

Ofsted's 2006 report found that there was little difference in the quality of provision and outcomes for pupils across primary, secondary and special schools. It added, however, that mainstream schools with additionally resourced provision were particularly successful in achieving high outcomes for pupils academically, socially and personally. High quality, specialist teachers and a commitment by leaders to create opportunities to include all pupils were the keys to success but the report noted that pupils in mainstream schools where support from teaching assistants was the main type of provision were less likely to make good academic progress than those who had access to specialist teaching.

The Government's response to the Select Committee noted that Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools had been asked to review progress on SEN provision in 2009/10. Her review will include reporting on the progress made under the Government's SEN strategy, "Removing Barriers to Achievement", in building teachers' skills in providing for children with SEN.

Special Educational Needs: Autism

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what statutory provisions are in place to ensure that children with autistic spectrum disorder have access to a teacher with a formal qualification in teaching children with autistic spectrum disorder; [132880]

(2) how many teachers in *(a)* mainstream maintained schools, *(b)* maintained special schools and *(c)* non-maintained special schools have a formal qualification in teaching children with autistic spectrum disorder; [132881]

(3) what funding the Government provided to assist teachers in gaining higher qualifications to teach children with autistic spectrum disorder in each year from 1997 to 2006. [132882]

Mr. Dhanda: There is no statutory requirement for children with autistic spectrum disorders (ASDs) to have access to a teacher with a formal qualification in teaching children with ASDs.

The non-statutory ASDs Good Practice Guidance (DfES/DH, 2002) advised that "all those who plan or provide for children with an ASD should have some knowledge and understanding of autism". The Department does not keep records centrally of how many teachers have a formal qualification in teaching children with ASDs.

Between 1997-98 and 2003-04 the value of the special educational needs (SEN) grant under the standards fund totalled £364.4 million (this figure includes Government grant and local authority matched funding). Training was one of the main sub-heads under the fund. It was for local authorities to decide how to use the funding. The fund guidance in 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2002-03 specifically highlighted training in ASDs as one of the areas local authorities may have wished to support.

Since 2004-05 £81 million for SEN has been included in the baseline for the school development grant, which all maintained schools receive, and this increased by 4 per cent. per year in 2004-05 and 2005-06. The school development grant can be used for in-service training. It is a matter for individual teachers and their schools to determine their own training and development needs, including training in ASDs. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, under certain circumstances, to provide specific training in SEN.

In 2002-03 £1 million was made available for higher education institutions to bid for projects to increase training and development opportunities for teachers, learning support assistants and school governorsunder the SEN training and development fund. Three grants were awarded for autism-related projects: £100,000 to Sheffield Hallam university (training initiatives aimed at raising the achievement of children with ASDs); £95,150 to the university of Birmingham (development of an ICT-supported module at masters level); and £50,000 to the university of Greenwich (collaborative project between the university and an ASD outreach service).

Student Loans Company

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for what reasons the Student Loans Company uses the retail price index as its preferred inflation index. [134375]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* The Government's policy is to apply an interest rate to student loans which maintains the value of the loan in real terms. Borrowers therefore receive an appreciable interest rate subsidy compared to commercial loans. The retail price index is used as the interest rate because it reflects a range of relevant factors including mortgage interest and council tax.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how long transfers of student loan repayments from the Treasury's consolidated account remain with his Department before being transferred to the Student Loans Company. [132897]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* Student loans repayments are not transferred to the Student Loans Company. They reduce the net assets, representing outstanding loans, on the Department for Education and Skills balance sheet. It is only information about repayments made by individual borrowers that is passed to the company to allow it to issue annual statements. Once that information is received by the company, repayments are attributed to each month of the tax year in which they were made by the borrower and monthly interest is calculated accordingly. This ensures that even if there is a delay in repayment details reaching the company, the borrower does not pay any additional interest.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much of the student loan repayment transfers received by his Department from

the Treasury's consolidated account in each of the last four quarters was *(a)* repayment of the principal component and *(b)* interest accrued. [132898]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* The Student Loans Company updates accounts with repayment details as they are received from HM Revenue and Customs. Repayments are taken from the total balance owed by the borrower. The Student Loans Company does not break down either outstanding amounts or repayments into principal and interest components.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much interest his Department earned on student loan repayments collected before annual transfer to the accounts in each of the last five years for which records are available; [131618]

(2) what representations he has received regarding the timing of the transfer of repayments of student loans into accounts; and if he will make a statement; [131619]

(3) if he will change the repayment methods employed by his Department on student loans so that repayments are made monthly. [131620]

Bill Rammell: I am aware that there is a petition on the No. 10 website based on the mistaken premise that borrowers overpay interest on their student loans because the Student Loans Company (SLC) only credits repayments annually. I have received correspondence relating to this.

Although borrowers' accounts are only updated as an annual exercise, the total annual repayment received from each borrower is credited to their account as 12 equal monthly payments, and the interest is calculated on a daily basis on the remaining balance in that month. No borrower pays too much interest as a result of the time lag in updating their account, and nor does the Department gain any additional income.

Student Numbers

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his estimate is of the likely number of *(a)* UK and *(b)* foreign students studying at universities in England in each of the next five years. [132867]

Bill Rammell: Estimates of likely numbers of students have not yet been made for this period. Over the last five years, the number of UK based students at English higher education institutions increased by 200,000 (14 per cent.) to 1.67 million and the number of overseas students at such institutions increased by 80,000 (40 per cent.) to 275,000.

Against that background, we expect many more students from both the UK and abroad to participate in higher education over the next five years.

Under the second phase of the Prime Minister's initiative, a target has been set for an extra 70,000 non-EU international higher education students and 30,000 non-EU international further education students to be recruited to UK higher education institutions and further education colleges by 2011.

Universities: Northern Cyprus

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the application by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus for recognition of its six universities under the Council of Europe's Bologna process; and if he will make a statement; [134981]

(2) what representations his Department has made to the Council of Europe in respect of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus's application for recognition of its six universities under the Council of Europe's Bologna process; [134982]

(3) what representations he has received on the financial implications for the Turkish-Cypriot universities of their continued non-membership of the Bologna process. [134983]

Bill Rammell: The Government's assessment, which is generally shared by other countries in the Bologna Process, is that the application in question, along with those being considered from Israel, Kosovo and the Kyrgyz Republic, does not meet the criteria for membership of the Process. This is because those criteria require member countries to have ratified the European Cultural Convention. The final decision on this issue will be taken when Ministers meet at the Bologna Process Ministerial Conference in May. The Bologna Process is not a Council of Europe initiative but an independent intergovernmental agreement. The Government have not therefore made any representations to the Council of Europe on this matter. My officials have received representations from Professor Tahir Celik, chair of the Higher Education Board in the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus', concerning his assessment of the potential economic impact of non-membership on universities in the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus'.

Diplomas

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which diploma consortia have been approved to run diplomas in each subject area in 2008. [131232]

Jim Knight: On 28 March I was pleased to announce the first 145 consortia (groups of schools, colleges and training providers) across 97 local authorities that have been given approval to offer one or more of the first five 14 to 19 diplomas from September 2008. A total of around 40,000 places are forecast across the country. Approved consortia delivering the diploma from 2008 were banded into two categories.

Category 1: recommended to go through for 2008 delivery with no conditions;

Category 2: recommended to go through for delivery from September 2008 with conditions that will need to be met within three months.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Labelling

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to bring forward measures to introduce health warnings on alcoholic drinks. [131901]

Caroline Flint: The Department has been working with the alcohol industry for a voluntary agreement on sensible drinking messages and unit information to include on labels.

Alcohol and Drugs: Strategy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she made an assessment of the potential for fiscal incentives to contribute to the promotion of responsible drinking prior to the 2007 Budget. [131939]

Caroline Flint: Tax decisions are made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, taking account of a range of factors, including health.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for the review of the *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* drugs strategy; and what consultation is taking place in relation to each such strategy. [135228]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office is leading the cross-Government effort on the development of a new Drug Strategy. The existing, and successful, 10-year strategy runs until March 2008. A consultation document is planned to be issued alongside details of the consultation process in May/June 2007. The intention is to consult interested groups and individuals, including service providers and those affected by drugs—users, families and local communities. Subject to cross-Government agreement, the new strategy is likely to be published in late 2007.

The Home Office and Department of Health are jointly leading a review of the Alcohol Harm Strategy for England 2004 and the development of a new Alcohol Strategy with support from the Department for Education and Skills. A series of detailed discussions have been held with key stakeholders from the health, police and young people's sectors and the alcohol industry to inform the development of the new Alcohol Strategy. The new strategy is due to be launched in summer 2007. A formal consultation is not planned prior to launch, but consultation is likely to be required on implementation of key aspects of the strategy.

Blood Transfusions

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to ensure that blood transfusions are avoided wherever possible. [133584]

Caroline Flint: The Department has taken a number of measures to ensure the most appropriate use of blood, and to encourage the national health service to use less blood. Some of the key measures are set out as follows.

In 1998, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) launched the Better Blood Transfusion initiative to promote and encouraged better/appropriate use of blood and alternatives to transfusion.

In July 2002, Health Service Circular (HSC) 2002/009 "Better Blood Transfusion—Appropriate Use of Blood" was issued. This has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Healthservicecirculars/DH_4004264

This circular asked NHS trusts and primary care trusts to review and explore the use of effective alternatives to donor blood, and also using the patients own blood.

The CMO's National Blood Transfusion Committee was established in 2002 to advise hospitals and the National Blood Service on best practice and performance monitoring, improving the safety and appropriateness of blood transfusion practice, listening to and informing patient concerns and promoting high quality and consistent transfusion practice.

The Department and the United Kingdom blood services produced a toolkit for practitioners on better blood transfusion, safe practice, appropriate use, education and training, and monitoring and traceability. The toolkit, which is available at www.transfusion guidelines.org.uk/, aims to help NHS trusts to make the most appropriate use of blood and its alternatives where possible.

A seminar was held on 16 March 2007 to discuss progress and identify ways to maintain or improve the safe and appropriate use of blood over the next three to five years. An HSC will be issued to the NHS on the outcomes.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to prevent unnecessary blood transfusions which can be prevented through the use of erythropoietin. [133585]

Caroline Flint: The type of treatment offered to patients is a matter of individual clinical judgment and discussion with the patient concerned.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is currently appraising erythropoietin for the treatment of anaemia induced by cancer treatment and expects to publish final guidance to the national health service in November 2007.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what alternatives are made available to people who choose not to receive blood transfusions on religious grounds. [133586]

Caroline Flint: Patients have the right to refuse a blood transfusion and this will be respected. However, before refusing a blood transfusion, patients need to fully understand the consequences of doing so. Information is available at www.transfusion guidelines.org.uk/ on alternatives to blood transfusion.

Blood: Contamination

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of haemophiliacs who were infected with HIV and

hepatitis C through blood transfusions when they were children, but are unable to receive hardship funds through the Macfarlane Trust and the Skipton fund; and if she will make a statement. [132463]

Caroline Flint: The Macfarlane Trust was set up in 1988 to provide financial help to patients with haemophilia infected with the HIV virus and their families.

The Skipton fund was set up in 2004 to administer an Ex-gratia Payment scheme for patients infected with hepatitis C following national health service treatment with blood or blood products. Haemophilia patients who were infected with hepatitis C are eligible for a payment under the Skipton fund.

Anyone eligible for payments should have received them. The Department is examining two cases where individuals claim that they have not received payments they may be entitled to.

Chlamydia Infection: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 120W, on chlamydia infection: screening, what percentage of primary care trusts participated in the chlamydia screening programme in the most recent period for which figures are available; and which primary care trusts are not participating in the programme. [131888]

Caroline Flint: To the end of December 2006, we had 45 per cent. of primary care trusts reporting data to the Health Protection Agency (HPA). This is an additional 2 per cent. to the 43 per cent. I gave in my reply on 12 March 2007 and covers 35 programme areas. More programme areas have started screening since then. The data for the January to March 2007 quarter will be reported to the HPA at the end of April.

The primary care trusts that have not reported data to the HPA are given in the following list.

PCT name

South Gloucestershire
Havering
Kingston
Bromley
Greenwich Teaching
Barnet
North East Lincolnshire
Hillingdon
Barking and Dagenham
City and Hackney Teaching
Tower Hamlets
Newham
Blackburn with Darwen
Herefordshire
Newcastle
North Tyneside
North Lincolnshire
Bassetlaw
Plymouth Teaching
Stockport
Bath and North East Somerset
Hammersmith and Fulham
Rotherham
Blackpool
Ealing
Hounslow
Calderdale
Barnsley
Swindon
Croydon
Gateshead
South Tyneside
Sunderland Teaching
Southampton City
Medway Teaching
Kensington and Chelsea
Westminster
Wandsworth
Shropshire County
Walsall Teaching
Richmond and Twickenham
Sutton and Merton
North Somerset
Telford and Wrekin
Wolverhampton City
Kirklees
Wakefield District
Doncaster
Derbyshire County
Derby City
Lincolnshire
Redbridge
Waltham Forest
Cumbria
Halton and St. Helens
East and North Hertfordshire
West Hertfordshire
Surrey
West Kent
Leicestershire County and Rutland
Leicester City
Northamptonshire
Dudley
South Staffordshire
Worcestershire
Warwickshire
Peterborough
West Essex
North East Essex
Mid Essex PCT
South West Essex PCT
Buckinghamshire PCT
Oxfordshire PCT
Berkshire West PCT
Gloucestershire PCT
Bristol PCT
Wiltshire PCT
Somerset PCT
Devon PCT
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT

Northumberland Care Trust
Bexley Care Trust
Torbay Care Trust

Cholesterol

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnoses of high cholesterol there were in England in each year since 1997-98; and how many such diagnoses were made in those under the age of 18 years. [131913]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the following table.

All diagnosis count of finished consultant episodes and patients for high cholesterol—national health service hospitals, England 1997-98 to 2005-06

	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
Age group	Finished consultant episodes	Patient counts	Finished consultant episodes	Patient counts	Finished consultant episodes	Patient counts	Finished consultant episodes	Patient counts
Aged under 18	167	121	200	167	244	198	298	209
Aged 18 and above	53,537	39,373	72,748	53,420	94,622	67,977	132,880	91,718
Age not known	226	153	35	32	42	40	257	133
Total	53,930	39,647	72,983	53,619	94,907	68,215	133,436	92,060

	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Age group	Finished consultant episodes	Patient counts	Finished consultant episodes	Patient counts	Finished consultant episodes	Patient counts	Finished consultant episodes	Patient counts
Aged under 18	344	240	336	270	393	318	558	426
Aged 18 and above	162,655	111,682	200,733	134,702	225,665	155,308	288,424	195,375
Age not known	202	200	141	139	87	87	70	70
Total	163,201	112,122	201,211	135,111	226,145	155,713	289,052	195,871

	2005-06	
Age group	Finished consultant episodes	Patient counts
Aged under 18	656	507
Aged 18 and above	363,156	241,424
Age not known	58	58
Total	363,870	241,989

CJD

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans she has to test blood donors for vCJD; [131864]

(2) what estimate she has made of the annual cost of testing blood donors for vCJD. [131865]

Caroline Flint: There are no current suitable tests for testing blood donation for variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease (vCJD), and therefore no current plans to test blood donors. However we are aware of a number of companies developing vCJD blood tests and, if such tests become available and after consulting with the appropriate advisory bodies, we will consider their utility in testing blood donations with the National Blood Service.

There are no reliable current estimates of the cost of testing blood donations for vCJD, which could only be accurately calculated once a suitable test for testing donations is available, and the cost of such a test is known.

Co-Proxamol

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the reasons were for the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency's decision to implement a phased withdrawal of co-proxamol; and if she will make a statement; [128931]

(2) when co-proxamol will be withdrawn from general use in the relief of pain for sufferers of *(a)* osteoarthritis and *(b)* fibromyalgia; and what alternative drugs will be able to be prescribed.; [128932]

(3) what *(a)* discussions she has had with and *(b)* representations she has received from (i) Arthritis Care, (ii) the Arthritis Research Campaign, (iii) the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society and (iv) the Fibromyalgia Association on the phased withdrawal of co-proxamol. [128933]

Caroline Flint: There has been growing concern about the safety of co-proxamol, prompted by United Kingdom research showing that co-proxamol alone accounts for almost one-fifth of drug related suicides and is second only to tricyclic antidepressants as an agent of fatal drug overdose. Furthermore, co-proxamol is involved in 300-400 self-poisoning deaths each year.

Many deaths involve people taking co-proxamol that had not been prescribed to them. Co-proxamol is potentially very toxic, and toxic overdose can occur with only a few tablets more than the recommended daily dose. Unlike paracetamol there is very limited opportunity for effective treatment of co-proxamol poisoning and sadly victims often die before they reach hospital.

As a result of these concerns, in 2004 the Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) conducted a rigorous review of all the available evidence regarding the risks and benefits of co-proxamol. The review highlighted that there is a lack of evidence that co-proxamol is any more effective than full dose paracetamol, either for

short term use or for chronic conditions. During the review a public call for evidence on the risks and benefits of co-proxamol was also conducted. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) wrote to a large number of organisations representing healthcare professionals, patient groups and other stakeholders. The information gathered provided no new objective evidence concerning the risk and benefits of co-proxamol.

The CSM noted that previously strengthened warnings to doctors and patients on the hazards of co-proxamol had proved ineffective. After considering all the available evidence the CSM determined that the risks of co-proxamol outweigh the benefits of allowing the medicine to remain on the market and advised that co-proxamol should be withdrawn over a period of up to 36 months.

The marketing authorisations for co-proxamol will be withdrawn at the end of 2007. Some manufacturers have already withdrawn co-proxamol and a few will phase the withdrawal until the end of 2007. This extended withdrawal period allows long-term co-proxamol users an opportunity to move to suitable alternatives. There are a number of such alternatives and the MHRA has issued CSM pain management guidance to help doctors find the best options for individual patients. This is available on the MHRA's website at www.mhra.gov.uk.

The MHRA recognises that there is a small group of patients who are likely to find it very difficult to change from co-proxamol or for whom there is an identified clinical need, and for whom alternatives appear not to be effective or suitable. For these patients, continued provision of co-proxamol through normal prescribing may continue until the cancellation of the licences at the end of 2007. After this time there will be provision for the supply of unlicensed co-proxamol, on the responsibility of the prescriber.

The MHRA has met with Arthritis Care, the British Society for Rheumatology, the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society and the British Pain Society to discuss the withdrawal of co-proxamol. As a result of these discussions, an article on the risk and benefit of co-proxamol was agreed for publication in the MHRA's/CSM's drug safety bulletin, 'Current Problems in Pharmacovigilance'. Arthritis Care, the British Pain Society and the British Society for Rheumatology also responded to the public call for evidence. As is usual for MHRA public consultations, the responses to consultation are available on request.

The outcome of regulatory action to withdraw co-proxamol is being carefully monitored. It is encouraging to see that the latest figures on suicide show that the national suicide rate continued to fall in 2005 and stood at its lowest ever level. Furthermore a recent report from the national programme on substance abuse deaths based at St George's Hospital in London shows that the number deaths involving co-proxamol had declined since the CSM took action.

Dental Services

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2098W, on dental services, how many dentists were operating on open NHS contracts in Somerset in each of the last 10 years, broken down by primary care trust. [135262]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data on the number of NHS dentists in Somerset from 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2006 are available in Annex E of the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006, which is available in the Library.

The report, published by the information centre for health and social care, is also available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity.

Information on the dental work force under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, is published at every quarter by the information centre for health and social care. These data are not comparable with the historical data in the link above. The latest information available is as at 31 December 2006 by the new primary care trusts (PCT) boundaries (PCT boundaries as at 1 October 2006) published on 23 March 2007—NHS Dental Statistics for England Quarter 3: 31 December 2006 and is available in the Library.

The report, published by The Information Centre for health and social care, is also available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental06q3.

Departments: Research

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) to what extent preferences shown by members of the public influence the research priorities set by her Department's research and development division; [132218]

(2) what *(a)* process and *(b)* decision-making criteria will be used to set research funding priorities for her Department's research and development division in each of the next three years; and what the timetable is for the setting of those priorities in each year; [132221]

(3) what formula is used to set funding allocations for different medical research specialties for her Department's research and development. [132257]

Caroline Flint: The Department funds National Health Service Research and Development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). Information on the priority setting processes for each NIHR programme is available through the NIHR website at www.nihr.ac.uk. The Government's strategy for health research 'Best Research for Best Health' was subject to open public consultation.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the United Kingdom National Screening Committee also act as customers for departmental research, and advisory bodies, research funders groups and topic review groups play a role in identifying research gaps and requirements.

The Department's Policy Research Programme (PRP) commissions research to support the development, implementation and evaluation of policy in public health, health services and adult social care. Priorities for the PRP are determined by the

Department's strategic objectives and public service agreements, and through discussion between officials and with Ministers.

The NIHR national advisory group INVOLVE promotes and supports active public involvement in all aspects of NHS, public health and social care research. Its website (www.invo.org.uk) and its publications give both researchers and the public information and advice on the range of opportunities for such involvement that exist.

More specifically, any individual or organisation can submit a suggestion for consideration by the NIHR Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme. An electronic form is available on the HTA website at www.hta.ac.uk/suggest.

Drugs: Counselling

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in London were referred to *(a)* counselling and *(b)* other advice services for help with drug related problems in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) health trust and (ii) borough. [132922]

Caroline Flint: We do not hold data on the numbers of people who were referred for counselling (structured psychosocial interventions) for drug related problems prior to 2003-04.

The following table shows the number of people broken down by Drug Action Team boundaries in London for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 who were referred for counselling (structured psychosocial intervention) for drug related problems in 2003-04. We do not have these figures on a health trust basis.

These figures are based on returns to the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System.

We do not collect data on the numbers of people referred to other advice services for drug related problems.

	Numbers in structured psychosocial intervention
2003-04	
Barking and Dagenham	147
Barnet	14
Bexley	4
Brent	55
Bromley	146
Camden	323
City of London	0
Croydon	95
Ealing	31
Enfield	12
Greenwich	382
Hackney	51
Hammersmith and Fulham	5
Haringey	150
Harrow	2
Havering	147
Hillingdon	274
Hounslow	26
Islington	133
Kensington and Chelsea	10
Kingston upon Thames	41
Lambeth	149
Lewisham	85
Merton	26
Newham	60
Redbridge	28
Richmond upon Thames	14
Southwark	149
Sutton	146
Tower Hamlets	134
Waltham Forest	2
Wandsworth	118
Westminster	36
2004-05	
Barking and Dagenham	244
Barnet	162
Bexley	5
Brent	143
Bromley	49
Camden	343
City of London	0
Croydon	178
Ealing	425
Enfield	8
Greenwich	49
Hackney	39
Hammersmith and Fulham	287
Haringey	125
Harrow	4
Havering	194
Hillingdon	188
Hounslow	165
Islington	287
Kensington and Chelsea	141
Kingston upon Thames	101
Lambeth	148
Lewisham	80
Merton	459
Newham	154
Redbridge	215
Richmond upon Thames	216
Southwark	27
Sutton	290
Tower Hamlets	169
Waltham Forest	18
Wandsworth	175
Westminster	251
2005-06	
Barking and Dagenham	248
Barnet	149
Bexley	48
Brent	154
Bromley	196
Camden	303
City of London	1
Croydon	72
Ealing	346

	Numbers in structured psychosocial intervention
Enfield	14
Greenwich	47
Hackney	35
Hammersmith and Fulham	691
Haringey	97
Harrow	98
Havering	89
Hillingdon	183
Hounslow	232
Islington	173
Kensington and Chelsea	94
Kingston upon Thames	67
Lambeth	111
Lewisham	18
Merton	527
Newham	161
Redbridge	77
Richmond upon Thames	244
Southwark	34
Sutton	330
Tower Hamlets	81
Waltham Forest	133
Wandsworth	138
Westminster	174

Epilepsy and Multiple Sclerosis

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of NHS services available for patients with *(a)* epilepsy and *(b)* multiple sclerosis. [134190]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made no recent assessment of the effectiveness of national health service services available for those living with epilepsy, or with multiple sclerosis.

Genito-Urinary Medicine: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of attenders at genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics was recorded as not having been given an appointment within two weeks in each audit of GUM clinic waiting times undertaken by the Health Protection Agency up to and including the February 2007 audit. [131963]

Caroline Flint: The percentage of attendees at genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England who were seen in 14 days or more, May 2004 to February 2007 is given in the following table.

Audit	Number seen in 14 or more days	Total seen	Percentage seen 14 or more days
May 2004	2,268	13,683	17
Nov 2004	1,928	13,892	14
May 2005	4,137	16,441	25
Aug 2005	3,242	15,255	21
Nov 2005	3,236	15,514	21
Feb 2006	2,734	15,455	18
May 2006	2,599	16,869	15
Aug 2006	2,237	17,189	13
Nov 2006	1,760	17,490	10
Feb 2007	1,523	18,691	8

Notes:
1. The table gives the data for two weeks or more, rather than more than two weeks, as these are the data that are available.
2. The audit is based on quarterly one-week samples of new and rebooked attendees (a rebook attendee is defined for this audit as someone who has not been into the clinic for six weeks or more) who self complete a standard brief questionnaire.
3. All tables exclude responses that do not include a valid answer to the waiting time question (Q6 in February 2007 and Q5 in previous audits). From May 2006, responses that do not include a valid appointment day are also excluded.
4. See full methodology for details: www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/hiv_and_sti/epidemiology/Waiting_times_Introduction_Method_Feb2007.pdf

Haemophilia

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department undertook between 1980 and 1990 into *(a)* haemophilia and *(b)* haemophilia linked to HIV; and what the (i) date and (ii) aims were of each project. [133791]

Caroline Flint: The Department's principal funding for and expenditure on research and development in the years from 1980 to 1990 was undertaken on a regional basis and the information needed to answer the hon. Member's question is not held centrally. The information that is available gives no indication that research in the areas in question was centrally commissioned during that time.

The Medical Research Council's (MRC) report 'AIDS Research, 1990' gives an account of a body of MRC-funded research that includes projects concerned with haemophilia and AIDS. A copy of the report is available in the Library.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why funding for the Haemophilia Society has been withdrawn. [133792]

Caroline Flint: The Haemophilia Society has received core funding under the Section 64 General Scheme of Grants for a number of years. We have not withdrawn Section 64 funding. In line with the criteria for the Section 64 scheme we recently informed the Haemophilia Society that we will be reducing their funding and provided an explanation for the reduction in funding well in advance to allow them to plan for this change.

The following level of funding will be provided over the next three years:

	£
2007-08	60,000
2008-09	30,000
2009-10	30,000

Local Improvement Finance Trust

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Local Improvement Finance Trust centres are planned for *(a)* Staffordshire, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Tamworth constituency. [132866]

Andy Burnham: There are currently six Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) schemes within the NHS West Midlands strategic health authority area. The Department of Health is able to confirm that one of these schemes is located in the North Staffordshire primary care trust (PCT) area. However, there are no current LIFT schemes in the South Staffordshire PCT area, which includes Tamworth.

Each LIFT Scheme is comprised of a number of individual LIFT centres and the number of these is shown in the table, broken down by the geographical areas requested and their current status.

Geographical area	*Completed and operational*	*Under construction*	*[1]Planned*
West Midlands	15	8	15
Staffordshire	4	1	2
Tamworth	-	-	-

[1] The term planned = all of the planned centres that the Department is aware of, which are prior to financial close and construction.

Hearing Impairment: Audio Equipment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of people using iPods who will suffer hearing impairment as a result. [133852]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have made no estimate of the number of people using iPods who will suffer hearing impairment.

HIV Infection: Greater London

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with HIV in each London borough in each of the last five years. [133350]

Caroline Flint: The HIV caseload for each London borough from 2001 to 2005 is shown in the table.

This corrects the information given in my answer to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone), on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, col. 1686-87w.

Number of diagnosed HIV-infected individuals resident in London local authorities, 2001-05

	Survey year				
Local authority	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Barking and Dagenham	140	191	277	322	344
Barnet	335	398	442	447	501
Bexley	86	108	125	157	176
Brent	478	554	619	653	720
Bromley	126	162	175	215	245
Camden	884	990	1,072	1,103	1,101
City of London	17	25	30	32	41
Croydon	500	629	635	712	782
Ealing	408	437	487	525	586
Enfield	270	334	417	465	539
Greenwich	318	422	506	589	647
Hackney	615	699	800	871	989
Hammersmith and Fulham	733	795	824	865	916
Haringey	680	751	840	913	986
Harrow	145	160	199	207	223
Havering	38	60	85	89	106
Hillingdon	153	182	226	270	302
Hounslow	282	329	420	478	516
Islington	704	796	954	966	1,025
Kensington and Chelsea	759	791	815	865	916
Kingston upon Thames	129	119	145	155	182
Lambeth	1,394	1,596	1,802	1,957	2,154
Lewisham	611	692	815	872	968
Merton	229	257	286	334	376
Newham	757	871	1,012	1,072	1,132
Redbridge	198	248	303	355	377
Richmond upon Thames	146	157	167	160	185
Southwark	1,033	1,190	1,350	1,510	1,699
Sutton	94	115	143	168	186
Tower Hamlets	442	550	637	683	755
Waltham Forest	372	445	524	552	610
Wandsworth	643	682	738	792	855
Westminster	777	862	953	1,033	1,074
London: LA not known	9	15	1	0	34

Source:
Survey of Prevalent HIV Infections Diagnosed (SOPHID), 2001-05.
SOPHID collects residential and epidemiological information on individuals accessing HIV care within a calendar year in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. All figures exclude infants born to HIV-infected women in the survey year but who were uninfected or whose infection status was indeterminate. At least 98 per cent. of indeterminate infants will subsequently be confirmed as uninfected.

Homeopathy

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a patient wishing to choose NHS homeopathy and other forms of complementary medicine will be able to access such services from one of the four NHS homeopathic hospitals; and how many other hospitals plan to offer such services. [133931]

Caroline Flint: The homeopathic hospitals in the United Kingdom fall under the jurisdiction of the national health service in the area in which they are based. Any decisions on the services any of these hospitals provide are the responsibility of those NHS healthcare organisations.

The Government consider that decision-making on individual clinical interventions, whether conventional or complementary/alternative treatments, have to be a matter for local NHS service providers and practitioners as they are best placed to know their community's needs. In making such decisions, they have to take into account evidence regarding safety, the clinical and cost-effectiveness of any treatments, the

availability of suitably qualified practitioners, and the needs of the individual patient. Clinical responsibility rests with the NHS professional who makes the decision to refer and who must therefore be able to justify any treatment they recommend. If they are unconvinced about the suitability of a particular treatment, they cannot be made to refer.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of patients in each group whose health is deemed at risk from seasonal influenza who received their seasonal influenza immunisation for the 2006-07 winter. [131848]

Caroline Flint: Data collected by the Health Protection Agency for influenza vaccinations for 2006-07 show as follows:

Those under 65 years of age and in a medical risk group:

	Percentage
Chronic respiratory disease	41
Chronic heart disease	54
Chronic renal disease	40
Chronic liver disease	32
Immunosuppression	34
Diabetes	69

Those aged 65 years and over—74 per cent.

Maternity Services: Death

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many maternal deaths there were whilst receiving maternity care in *(a)* Yorkshire and *(b)* England in each of the last three years. [132967]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the confidential enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH)'s report on maternal death for the three-year period 2000-02 showed that there were 106 direct maternal deaths in that period, representing 5.3 deaths per thousand of the two million births. The next CEMACH report (for 2003-05) will be published at the end of the year.

Mental Health Services: Gloucestershire

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to make a final decision on the reconfiguration of mental health services provided by Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust. [135423]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The case has been referred to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel and the panel will provide advice to the Secretary of State by 27 July. Following receipt of the panel's report, the Secretary of State will then make a final decision on the case.

Modernising Medical Careers

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral statement on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 41, on modernising medical careers, how many members of the independent review chaired by Professor John Tooke were members of the review group which dealt with this year's recruitment process. [135060]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 April 2007]*: Professor Sir John Tooke has not yet confirmed the membership of his review group, although this is being considered as a matter of urgency so that the independent review can commence its business as soon as possible.

National Midwifery Council: Funding

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was provided by her Department to support the establishment of the National Midwifery Council. [133572]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: According to our records, the Department granted funding between April 2002 and April 2004 totalling £3,656,382.81 to support the establishment of the Nursing and Midwifery Council. Figures prior to April 2002 are currently unavailable without extensive research.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what annual funding is provided by her Department to the National Midwifery Council. [133573]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: According to our records no funding has been paid to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) by the Department since April 2004. The NMC is an autonomous organisation funded by registration fees and does not receive funding from the Department.

NHS Direct

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the number of callers to NHS Direct who ring more than once a week; and whether individuals have been banned from calling NHS Direct. [134116]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally. This is a matter for the Chief Executive of the NHS Direct national health service trust.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her new policy is on providing an independent sector treatment centre for South East Essex; and if she will make a statement; [132603]

(2) how much has been spent to date on securing an independent sector treatment centre for South East Essex. [132605]

Andy Burnham: The Department is working with the NHS East of England SHA to deliver independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) services in Essex. It is currently anticipated that there will be three ISTCs in the region, located in Braintree, Basildon and Southend.

The aims of the Department's ISTC programme are to:

help provide capacity to deliver swift access to treatment for national health service patients.

support the implementation of patient choice.

stimulate innovative models of service delivery and drive up productivity, and;

introduce contestability between providers of healthcare services for NHS patients.

The ISTC programme comprises central resources which work across all schemes and the programme in general. These resources are not disaggregated by individual scheme.

In wave 1 of the ISTC programme ex-gratia payments were made in relation to the South Essex scheme. The amounts paid are commercially sensitive.

NHS: Choose and Book System

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of general practitioner referrals to first consultant-led out-patient services were made through the choose and book system by 1 April. [133826]

Andy Burnham: During March 2007 a total of 283,149 general practitioner referrals to first consultant-led out-patient services were made through the choose and book system. This equates to 38 per cent. of first out-patient referrals nationally, and represents a range of between 8 per cent. and 91 per cent. for different primary care trusts.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 318W, on patient choice schemes, what the total costs of *(a)* preparing, *(b)* implementing and *(c)* rolling out the Choose and Book system have been since the system was first proposed. [134619]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 317W.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budget was set for each local trust for the implementation of the Choose and Book system for each year in which the system has been in operation. [134624]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the response given on 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 141-42W.

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of *(a)* the winding-up costs of (i) the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health and (ii) PPI forums and *(b)* the start-up costs for local involvement networks; and if she will make a statement. [135300]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* The precise cost of winding-up the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) is not yet known as some costs such as those for making staff redundant will not become clear until later in the year. However, we do know that all costs associated with the wind-up of the CPPIH will be covered from within its existing funding allocation. There will be no costs associated with the wind-up of PPI forums as all associated costs for forums are contained within limited contracts between the CPPIH and forum support organisations.

The cost of establishing local involvement networks (LINks) will depend on locally relevant factors including size of the network, nature of the population, resource structure of the host, and other variables. Funds to cover LINk establishment and their running costs are currently being bid for as part of the spending review process.

Obesity: Children

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards meeting the public services agreement target of July 2004 that by 2010 the increase in obesity among children aged under 11 years will be halted. [131947]

Caroline Flint: Despite the very challenging nature of the public service agreement (PSA) target we have made good progress. For example:

OFCOM has announced restrictions to ensure no high fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) products are broadcast advertised to pre-school children; in programmes specifically made for children; or in programmes of particular appeal to children up to 16 years old.

The 2005-06 school sport survey found that overall 80 per cent. of pupils participate in at least two hours of high quality physical education and school sport a week, meeting our PSA target early.

New, tougher nutritional standards for school food have been announced and those for school lunches have been in place since September 2006.

We launched the Top Tips for Top Mums campaign, in March 2007, to help parents tackle the four key barriers to children eating fruit and vegetables (cost, fussy eaters, limited time/cooking skills, and a lack of structured meal occasions). This was the first in a series of campaigns using social marketing approaches.

Obviously tackling obesity is a complex issue, requiring action on a number of fronts and working closely with families and individuals to change behaviour. It is extremely positive that internationally our approach is regarded as good practice, informing for example, the World Health Organisation Europe Charter on Counteracting Obesity, published in November last year.

Patients: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per head by the NHS on care and treatment for *(a)* all people, *(b)* children, *(c)* young people, *(d)* those aged 65 years and over and *(e)* those aged 80 years and over in the most recent period for which figures are available. [134112]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows hospital and community health services (HCHS) expenditure

per head of population in 2003-04. The table shows the available age group breakdown, which differs from that requested.

Age group	*Expenditure per head (£)*
All births	2,742
Age 0-4	1,046
Age 5-15	210
Age 16-44	459
Age 45-64	586
Age 65-74	1,416
Age 75-84	2,371
Age 85+	4,077
Average	765

Note:
2003-04 is the latest year these data are available.
Source:
HCHS Programme Budget 2003-04 and ONS mid-year population estimates 2003.

Smoking: Railway and other Stations

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she has taken with *(a)* train, bus and coach operators and *(b)* Network Rail to inform passengers of the introduction of a ban on smoking at railway and other stations. [133929]

Caroline Flint: The smokefree provisions within the Health Act 2006 will apply to virtually all enclosed and substantially enclosed public places and workplaces, as well as to public transport vehicles. Many forms of public transport are already smokefree. London Underground ended smoking on all its trains and stations 20 years ago.

The Department has met Network Rail and organisations representing all train operators, bus and coach operators in an effort to support the transport industry in their preparations for the implementation of smokefree legislation on 1 July 2007.

All smokefree premises and vehicles will be required under smokefree legislation to display no-smoking signs that meet specified requirements. Signs will allow clear communication with smokers so they are clear where smoking is not permitted under the new law. Signs will also make it clear to non-smokers where they have a right to expect a smokefree environment, as well as helping to demonstrate that people who manage premises are taking reasonable steps to prevent smoking from taking place. The Government has drafted smokefree regulations to ensure that much of the pre-existing no-smoking signage displayed in public transport vehicles will meet requirements.

Smoking: Social Clubs

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she has taken to ensure working men's clubs are aware of the forthcoming ban on smoking. [130101]

Caroline Flint: The Department is providing a range of information and support to businesses to help them be ready for the implementation of smokefree legislation on 1 July 2007.

On 23 March 2007, the Department published the guide "Everything you need to prepare for the new smokefree law on 1 July 2007", with comprehensive information on smokefree legislation for businesses. The guide will be included within a pack that was posted to all employing and trading businesses in England, including working men's clubs, during April and is also available to download on the Smokefree England website at:

www.smokefreeengland.co.uk.

The guidance packs that businesses have received also include no-smoking signs and other support materials.

A Smokefree England ministerial reference group comprised of key stakeholders was created last year to facilitate dialogue between business groups (including representatives from the hospitality industry), local government and the Department, and has met regularly. The Committee of Registered Clubs' Associations (CORCA), representing working men's clubs, is a member of the reference group.

Through the Smokefree England campaign, the Department been working with CORCA to help communicate how the new law will affect members clubs, and has met with CORCA representatives regularly. The Department will continue to provide CORCA and working men's clubs with assistance and advice to support their preparations for the implementation of smokefree legislation.

Businesses can also contact their local council for information and advice on getting ready for the implementation of smokefree legislation.

Surgery: Cancellations

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Hull and East Yorkshire NHS trust patients had their operation cancelled up to 14 days before the operation in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many such operations were for *(a)* knee surgery, *(b)* hip replacements, *(c)* ophthalmology surgery and *(d)* urology surgery. [133930]

Andy Burnham: Data collected centrally cover cancellations for non-clinical reasons on the day the patient is due to arrive or after arrival in hospital, and for non-clinical reasons on the day of surgery. The data are available by provider but not by speciality. There were 744 such cancellations in the period January to December 2006 at Hull and East Yorkshire national health service trust. This equates to 1.1 per cent. of elective admissions.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 3 May 2007

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Local Councillors

20. **Mr. Khan:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on steps to increase the diversity of local councillors. [135450]

Meg Munn: The independent Commission on Local Councillors, announced by my right hon. Friend the Member for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly) on 8 February, has been set up to consider how a more diverse range of people, including more women, can be encouraged and supported to become councillors so that communities are better represented. The Commission is looking at the range of barriers preventing women, and other under represented groups such as from the BME community and younger people, from standing, including for example time requirement and public perception of the role of councillors. The Commission is expected to report to the Secretary of State with its recommendations in the autumn.

Age Discrimination

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what plans she has to prevent age discrimination in the provision of goods and services. [135449]

Meg Munn: The Government are considering whether there is a case for introducing legislation to prohibit harmful age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services as part of the Discrimination Law Review. The proposals emerging from the review will be published for public consultation later this month.

Women and Work Commission

David Taylor: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what progress has been made in the last 12 months in taking forward the recommendations of the Women and Work Commission; and if she will make a statement. [135451]

Meg Munn: On 2 April we launched a report setting out the comprehensive programme of action being taken forward by Government to reduce the gender pay and opportunities gap one year on from the Women and Work Commission's recommendations. This included: details of a £500,000 fund to create more quality part-time work; the development of an Equality Check Tool to allow employers to see where they could improve their practices in relation to gender equality issues. I will also continue to chair a project board of Whitehall officials to drive forward the women's economic participation agenda.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 307W, on the Rural Payments Agency, (1) when he expects analysis by constituency of claimants and payments made under the single payment scheme to be published; and where the information will be made available; [133135]

(2) when he expects analysis by constituency of claimants and payments made under the Single Payment Scheme to be published; and where the information will be made available. [135419]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 2 May 2007]:* Detailed analysis of all the payments made under the 2005 single payment scheme is not yet available. Once the remaining 2005 scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

Bees

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value was of *(a)* UK honey production and *(b)* pollination services provided by beekeepers in (i) 2004, (ii) 2005 and (iii) 2006. [133562]

Barry Gardiner: The value of honey production in the UK in 2004 was £17.3 million and in both 2005 and 2006 was approximately £18 million per year. On the basis of an economic evaluation in 2001, the estimated economic value of crops grown commercially in the UK that benefit from bee pollination is £120 million to £200 million per year.

Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the reduction required in UK carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 if the UK is to meet its share in an international goal of stabilising greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at between 450 and 550 ppm of carbon dioxide equivalent. [131737]

Ian Pearson: There is no simple relationship between a long-term stabilisation goal and the pathways required to get there. The most recent science indicates that to stabilise at between 450 and 550 ppm CO_2 equivalent, global greenhouse gas emissions would need to fall by between 10 per cent. and 65 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2050.

The UK's target of a 60 per cent. reduction in carbon dioxide emissions is consistent with this approach. However, we recognise that we will need to keep this goal under review in the light of emerging scientific evidence and other developments.

Coastal Areas

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he intends to take in response to the Communities and Local Government Committee's report on Coastal Towns. [135211]

Barry Gardiner: My Department is considering the issues and contributing to the Government's Response.

Coastal Erosion

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much coastal erosion occurred on the UK's coastline in each of the last 30 years for which figures are available. [135210]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA has overall policy responsibility for coastal erosion risk in England and grant aids local authority improvement projects to reduce this risk, but does not build defences, nor direct the authorities on which specific projects to undertake. Management of coastal erosion risk and associated monitoring is the responsibility of the relevant local authority in each area.

DEFRA does not measure the extent of coastal erosion or hold these figures centrally. Erosion risk will vary around the coastline depending on local conditions and defences in place. DEFRA has encouraged the relevant authorities to produce Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) which provide large-scale assessments of the risks associated with coastal processes and present long term policy frameworks to manage them in a sustainable manner. In 2001, DEFRA funded a national study of information on long term coastal processes and evolution over the next century (Futurecoast). This is designed to be used by coastal authorities to inform their current revisions of SMPs.

The then Office of Science and Technology's Foresight Future Flooding report, published in 2004, also considered possible rates of coastal erosion under different scenarios over the next 80 years.

Darwin Initiative

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding and other resources have been *(a)* spent in each of the last three financial years and *(b)* allocated for each of the next three financial years for the Darwin Initiative fund. [132432]

Barry Gardiner: The information is as follows:

(a) Expenditure on the Darwin Initiative in each of the last three years was as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	3.7
2004-05	4.5
2005-06	6.7

It is still too early to provide accurate and verified figures for expenditure under the Darwin Initiative for the 2006-07 financial year.

(b) The budget is £7 million for this financial year (2007-08). The allocation for future years will be determined in light of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review.

Departments: Climate Change

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department were employed on matters relating to climate change in each year since 2000. [135049]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* The information requested cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff are employed by the Office of Climate Change, broken down by salary band. [135050]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* The number of staff employed in the Office for Climate Change on 31 March 2007 taken from the central HR Database was as follows:

	Number of staff
AO	3.00
HEO	10.00
SEO	1.00
Grade 7	5.00
Grade 6	2.00
SCS	4.60
Total	25.60

The numbers shown are full-time equivalents and exclude employment agency temporary staff, consultants and contractors.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings took place between Ministers and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date of each such meeting was. [131030]

Barry Gardiner: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Ministers and officials meet a large number of people and groups in the course of their official duties.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [134997]

Ian Pearson: The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs purchased a total of 45,968,886 kilowatt hours from renewable sources in 2005-06. This equates to 63 per cent. of its total electricity and 27 per cent. of its total energy consumed.

Cross Government targets mandate Departments to source at least 10 per cent. of their electricity from renewable sources by 2008.

Farmers: Resignations

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of farmers who left the agricultural sector in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [134674]

Barry Gardiner: Figures from the Agricultural and Horticultural Survey indicate labour on registered holdings at June each year. These figures therefore show net change only in the numbers of farmers.

Agricultural labour force in Suffolk

	Total farmers, partners, directors and spouses (if working on the holding)	*Total labour*
1997	4,895	11,791
1998	4,815	12,160
1999	4,641	11,173
2000	5,476	11,211
2001	5,830	11,582
2002	5,637	10,785
2003	5,498	10,208
2004	5,699	10,683
2005	5,635	10,621
2006	5,778	10,293

Notes:
(a) Figures prior to 2000 are for main holdings only. Figures from 2000 onwards include all holdings. A minor holding has to meet all of the following conditions:
(i) the total area less than six hectares
(ii) the labour requirement is estimated to be less than 100 standard person days
(iii) there is no regular full time farmer or worker
(iv) the glasshouse area is less than 100 square metres
(v) the occupier does not farm another holding
(b) Since the annual June Survey is now based on a sample estimates have been made for those not surveyed.
(c) Due to the introduction of new labour questions in 1998 figures prior to this year are not directly comparable with earlier year's results.
(d) Due to a register improvement exercise in 2001 labour figures prior to this are not directly comparable with later results.
Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Government Departments: Combined Heat and Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much combined heat and power (CHP) has been installed on the Government estate since 1997; and whether the Government expects to meet its CHP target by 2010. [135591]

Ian Pearson: Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) reports, which monitor how the Government manage their land and buildings, set out that during the period 2001-02 (the date of the first report), three Departments sourced good quality CHP, while during the last reporting period (2005-06) seven Departments sourced good quality CHP. In this period DEFRA sourced 12 per cent. of their electricity from CHP and the DTI sourced 14.3 per cent.

The DTI's digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) sets out that in 2005, 14 CHP schemes had been installed in buildings on the Government estate.

All Departments are working towards the sustainable operations targets launched by the Prime Minister in June of last year. Government Departments are also mandated within the new targets to source at least 15 per cent. of electricity from Good Quality Combined Heat and Power by 2010 (with allowances for Departments that already purchase 100 per cent. renewable energy).

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on his commitment that 15 per cent. of electricity used in the Government estate will be from combined heat and power by 2010. [135594]

Ian Pearson: No representations have been made to me recently on the subject of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate target to source at least 15 per cent. of electricity from Good Quality Combined heat and Power by 2010 (with allowances for Departments that already purchase 100 per cent. renewable energy).

Rights of Way: East Anglia

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Rights of Way have been established since the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; how many were in East Anglia; and how much land has been affected in *(a)* England and *(b)* East Anglia. [135212]

Barry Gardiner: Local highway authorities are responsible for the management of rights of way and hold the relevant information on them. DEFRA does not hold the information requested which could be gathered only at a disproportionate cost.

Rural Areas: Environment Protection

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many agreements have been made under the *(a)* Countryside Stewardship, *(b)* Entry Level and *(c)* Environmentally Sensitive Areas schemes, broken down by year of expiry. [134076]

Barry Gardiner: The following table shows numbers of agreements currently recorded broken down by the year of expiry expected at the time the agreement was entered into under the three agri-environment schemes in question.

Agreements by year of expected expiry under each scheme

Number

	CSS	*ESA*	*ELS*
1993	4	0	0
1994	5	0	0
1995	14	0	0
1996	10	0	0
1997	21	0	0
1998	70	0	0

Agreements by year of expected expiry under each scheme

	CSS	ESA	Number ELS
1999	122	0	0
2000	164	0	0
2001	990	0	0
2002	1,395	2,253	0
2003	1,192	2,822	0
2004	991	2,315	0
2005	573	1,691	0
2006	1,083	991	0
2007	1,120	889	0
2008	1,292	802	0
2009	1,196	579	0
2010	2,210	483	11,871
2011	2,506	594	12,801
2012	2,885	2,383	2,820
2013	2,772	2,412	0
2014	1,657	1,639	0
2015	0	2	0

Notes:
1. A small number of agreements do not run for the full duration as they are terminated early.
2. The full duration is 10 years for Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) and five years for the Entry Level Stewardship Scheme (ELS).
3. As the ELS scheme is open to new applications, the figures for ELS are a snapshot showing current live agreements, and accordingly this figure will be subject to future variation.

Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has made to the Home Department on the future of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme. [134341]

Barry Gardiner: My Department has regular discussions with the Home Office on a range of issues. The Government are aware of the importance of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme (SAWS) to farmers and growers. The scheme plays an important role in helping the industry to meet its demand for seasonal and casual workers, particularly during periods of peak activity. The views of DEFRA Ministers are fully represented in decisions taken by the Government about the future of SAWS.

Seeds: Imports

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many lots of seeds for *(a)* maize and sweetcorn, *(b)* winter oilseed rape, *(c)* spring oilseed rape, *(d)* sugar beet, *(e)* fodder beet, *(f)* beetroot and *(g)* winter brassicas were imported into the UK in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006; and what the (A) weight and (B) country of origin of the seeds was in each year. [133933]

Barry Gardiner: The following table gives the volume of seeds imported to the UK by country of despatch in 2005 and 2006 for the seed types recorded in the official overseas trade statistics. Note, some of the seed types requested are not separately available.

The statistics are provided by country of despatch rather than country of origin. Details of country of origin are not available for the vast majority of imported seeds.

The data are subject to a degree of statistical error. The overall level of errors is low, but these errors have a much greater proportional effect on countries with small values or volumes of trade. Therefore, care is needed when interpreting the data.

Description/country	2005	Tonnes 2006
Maize seed for sowing excl. sweetcorn		
Irish Republic	13,054	4,345
France	5,813	3,162
Netherlands	1,817	1,784
Germany	731	1,660
Italy	—	306
Austria	72	39
Pakistan	8	14
Spain	12	7
Belgium	—	16
USA	3	2
Dubai	—	3
Colombia	—	3
Australia	—	2
Sweden	1	—
New Zealand	—	0
Portugal	0	0
Denmark	0	—
Low erucic acid rape or colza seeds for sowing		
France	196	471
Germany	350	40
Denmark	0	15
Netherlands	4	4
Sweden	6	—
Irish Republic	1	1
Austria	0	—
New Zealand	0	—
Other rape seed oil low erucic acid rape		
France	3,453	18,172
Irish Republic	3,039	3,604
Belgium	22	3,423
Netherlands	0	2,104
Germany	4	109
Egypt	61	—
New Zealand	2	—
Sugar beet seed of a kind used for sowing		
Italy	457	—
Germany	27	86
Belgium	9	91
France	65	31
Poland	2	57
Irish Republic	6	18
Denmark	—	5

Description/country	2005	Tonnes 2006
Netherlands	3	—
Sweden	0	—
Salad beet seed or fodder beet root seed		
Netherlands	24	22
USA	34	0
Australia	3	3
Italy	—	0
Germany	—	0
Beet seed other than sugar beet seed		
Germany	71	32
France	3	4
Denmark	—	1
Netherlands	0	0
Italy	0	0
Portugal	0	—
Belgium	—	0
Other vegetable seeds of a kind used for sowing		
Netherlands	808	3,961
Germany	270	221
France	66	301
USA	103	108
Austria	67	67
Italy	61	51
India	39	39
Canada	46	4
New Zealand	4	44
Chile	30	0
Egypt	19	12
Czech Republic	—	24
Denmark	8	8
Irish Republic	8	7
Japan	9	5
Spain	6	5
Australia	9	3
Lebanon	10	—
Israel	4	4
Portugal	6	—
Brazil	4	—
China	1	3
Sweden	1	2
Taiwan	1	1
South Africa	0	2
Singapore	2	—
Belgium	2	0
South Korea	0	1
Ghana	—	1
Thailand	1	0
Hong Kong	—	1
Lithuania	—	0
Ukraine	0	—
Switzerland	0	0
Jordan	0	0
Greece	0	—
Argentina	0	—
Poland	0	0
Hungary	0	0
Uganda	—	0
Cyprus	0	—

0 = quantity less than half the unit shown
'—' = nil values

Note:
2006 data are subject to amendments

Source:
HM Revenue and Customs
Data prepared by Trade statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis Division, DEFRA

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

EC Grants and Loans: North East Region

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Objective 2 schemes in the North East were held to be deficient in the management of expenditure, resulting in the suspension by the European Commission of all European Regional Development Fund payments to the UK. [135065]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 2 May 2007]:* The European Commission is holding back the reimbursement of some expenditure by the Government on European Regional Development Fund 2000-06 programmes in some regions in England, including the North East, not across the whole of the UK. The European Commission has required that more on site checks of projects funded from the European Regional Development Fund are carried out by the Government Office for the North East to ensure that projects are complying with particular European Commission requirements. The European Commission has not referred to specific projects in the North East programme in this regard. The Government Office for the North East has put in place a robust action plan to deal with the issues and has achieved targets for on site checks set for the end of March. Discussions are continuing with the Commission with a view to getting expenditure reimbursed as soon as possible.

EC Grants and Loans: Government Office for London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking *(a)* to investigate and *(b)* to remedy the causes of the suspension of European Regional Development funding to the Government office for London; what those causes are; and if she will make a statement. [132513]

Yvette Cooper: The European Commission is holding back the reimbursement of some expenditure by the Government on European Regional Development Fund 2000-06 programmes in some regions in England, including London, until additional on site checks have been completed to ensure that projects comply with particular European Commission criteria. The Government office for London put in place a robust plan to deal with the issues as soon as they were raised and action has been taken to deal with them. Discussions are continuing with the Commission with a view to getting expenditure reimbursed as soon as possible.

Homelessness: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless people there were in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency and *(b)* Tees Valley sub-region in each of the last 10 years. [130903]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level, in respect of households rather than people. There are five local authorities in the Tees Valley sub-region: Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees. The constituency of Hartlepool comprises the local authority of Hartlepool.

Information reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty.

The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. The number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by the councils under homelessness legislation, as at the end of each quarter, is reported by local authorities, and includes both those households who have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty, and those for which inquiries are pending.

These are data published in our quarterly statistical release on Statutory Homelessness, which includes a Supplementary Table showing the breakdown of key data, including acceptances and temporary accommodation, by each local authority. This is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter.

Since 1998, information has also been collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally rooflessness on a single night—and these are also published on our website, by local authority.

Summary tables showing the total number of households (a) accepted under homelessness provisions and (b) in temporary accommodation, from 1997-98 to 2005-06, and (c) rough sleeper estimates from 1998 onwards, for each local authority (including those within the Tees Valley sub-region), were placed in the Library in response to the answer given on 23 October 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1663-64W, to my hon. Friend the Member for the Vale of Clwyd (Chris Ruane).

Housing: Construction

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1329-30W, on housing: construction, what estimate she has made of the number and percentage of the houses built in each category in 2005-06 that were built *(a)* for rental purposes and *(b)* as social housing. [131134]

Yvette Cooper: Information on the total new build dwellings for rental purposes is not available centrally.

The following numbers of social dwellings for rent were provided in England, Hampshire and each district in Hampshire since 2003-04:

Social for rent housing provision in England, Hampshire and districts

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
England	*22,661*	*21,017*	*23,349*
Hampshire	*1,070*	*1,051*	*975*
Basingstoke and Deane	235	138	145
East Hampshire	158	74	35
Eastleigh	96	132	47
Fareham	18	28	8
Gosport	31	47	64
Hart	43	58	52
Havant	74	27	78
New Forest	100	55	114
Portsmouth UA	25	82	119
Rushmoor	134	64	90
Southampton UA	92	162	114
Test Valley	13	80	63
Winchester	51	104	46

Notes:
1. LA figures are as reported.
Social housing provision includes new build and acquisitions.
Source:
Housing Corporation, statistical returns from local authorities.

Social for rent supply includes new build and acquisitions. The figures only make up part of the affordable housing supply with other dwellings being provided through low cost home ownership schemes. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on the 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1800W, for total affordable homes provided in Hampshire.

Housing: Energy

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to use building regulation standards to promote *(a)* energy efficiency, *(b)* modern heating systems including solar thermal and *(c)* microgeneration. [135726]

Angela E. Smith: Part L of the Building Regulations is concerned with the conservation of fuel and power. The provisions were amended in April 2006 to raise energy efficiency standards and change the method of showing compliance. Without prescribing solutions, this new approach and associated calculation tools, take into account the low carbon benefits of solar thermal and other microgeneration systems, thus encouraging their use. Guidance was published alongside the Part L changes to highlight the contribution that these technologies can make. These standards are kept under review and the Government have signalled the next comprehensive amendment will come into effect around 2010.

Housing: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the number of new *(a)* affordable and *(b)* social houses available in Hartlepool constituency in the next five years. [130904]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Corporation programme for 2006-08 currently includes an allocation of over £3.7 million which should provide 65 new rented units in the borough. In addition a recent allocation has been made to fund 20 new social home buy units. There will be the opportunity for more homes to be provided by way of the next bidding round which covers the period 2008 onwards.

Through the planning system, the Secretary of State encourages planning authorities to assess need and make provision for that need through Local Development Frameworks.

Housing: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what policy reason Planning Policy Statement 3 prevents local authorities from using windfall sites to meet their housebuilding targets. [129235]

Yvette Cooper: Planning Policy Statement 3: "Housing" (PPS3) does not stop local authorities taking advantage of windfall sites to boost the delivery of housing in their areas. But it does seek to ensure that, generally speaking, housing provision is properly planned, and that local authorities develop clear and informed strategies for the location of housing development, and for the infrastructure needed to service it. PPS3 asks local authorities, wherever they can, to identify specific sites in their plans where they consider homes should be built, including brownfield sites, and discourages an over-reliance on windfall sites (such as garden land) that may come forward randomly and speculatively.

We recognise that in some circumstances it may make sense for local authorities, within a planned strategy, to include a windfall allowance in planning their land supply. Under PPS3 policy, it is open to them to do this, if they can clearly demonstrate why, in the particular circumstances of their local area, specific sites cannot be identified.

Our objective is, however, that wherever possible, land supply and housing delivery benefit from a plan led approach.

Housing: South West Region

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the private sector housing renewal grant was for the south-west in 2006-07; what it is projected to be in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [131142]

Yvette Cooper: The regional housing pot, which includes private sector renewal grant, provides investment for the provision of new affordable homes, bringing local authority stock up to the Decent Homes standard, improvements in private sector stock and provision of sites for Gypsies and Travellers. The balance between these priorities is determined on advice given by the regions.

The south-west share of the regional housing pot rose from £154 million in 2006-07 to £190 million in 2007-08. Following advice from the region, we allocated £31 million in 2006-07 to local authorities to support improvement work in the private sector and will be allocating £28 million later this month for the same purpose in 2007-08.

Key Real Estate

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments her Department has made to Key Real Estate Ltd, trading as Key Homes in the last 12 months; and what the *(a)* date, *(b)* value and *(c)* purpose was of each payment. [133583]

Yvette Cooper: The Department has made no payments to Key Real Estate Ltd. trading as Key Homes in the last 12 months.

Local Government Finance: Noise

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the merits of ringfencing council funding for noise abatement services. [133304]

Mr. Woolas: Policy responsibility for the provision and funding of local authority noise abatement services rests with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Government provide funding for these services through Formula Grant (Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates). This is unhypothecated and decisions on the use of that funding are for local authorities. The Government are committed to ensuring that, wherever possible, councils receive funding through unhypothecated provision. The Chancellor announced in the recent Budget report that the Government are committed to set out a clear target to reduce specific grants and ring fenced funding to local authorities.

Local Government: Training

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what initiatives she is considering for the use of local authority contracts to stimulate the skills training and employment of local unemployed men and women. [133938]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's established policy is that all public procurement should be based on value for money, having due regard to propriety and regularity. Subject to their legal duties, including public procurement law, the duty of best value and equalities law, local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions.

The use of contract clauses to promote social, economic or environmental factors, for example in relation to skills training and employment, may be permitted in circumstances where the clauses link into the subject matter of the contract.

Members: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons she has not responded to *(a)* the letter from Mr. Fielder of Weston-Super-Mare on home

information packs forwarded by the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare on 5 February and *(b)* the letters of (i) 14 March and (ii) 29 March from the hon. Member. [133633]

Yvette Cooper: I have now replied to the hon. Member's correspondence.

Planning

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Planning White Paper to be published; and what provision will be made in the White Paper relating to *(a)* increasing public participation and *(b)* third party rights of appeal. [132493]

Yvette Cooper: The White Paper will be published later this spring. The Government of course recognise the importance of effective public participation in this area and the White Paper will propose arrangements for achieving this. The issue of third party rights of appeal was carefully considered when we developed proposals for radical reform of the planning system in 2001; the Government concluded then that such a proposal could add unacceptably to the costs and uncertainties of planning.

TRANSPORT

Pedestrian Crossings

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the document setting out the criteria used to determine the location of zebra and pelican crossings in England; what the requirements are for the minimum distance from which such crossings must be visible to oncoming motorists; and if he will make a statement. [135596]

Gillian Merron: There are no national criteria for the placing of pedestrian crossings in England. It is for the local highway or traffic authority concerned to decide on suitable crossing types and locations. The Department's published guidance, Local Transport Note 1/95, The Assessment of Pedestrian Crossings, recommends a decision framework approach which includes making an assessment of the visibility distance of crossings. Local Transport Note 2/95, The Design of Pedestrian Crossings, provides guidance on visibility distances. I have arranged for copies of both publications to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Palestinians: International Assistance

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how a terrorist is defined for the purposes of the Temporary International Mechanism. [135562]

Hilary Benn: The Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) does not make payments to individuals if they appear on the following internationally-recognised terrorist lists:

Bank of England terrorist list;

European Union terrorist list;

United Nations sanctions list;

Office of Foreign Assets Control (United States Treasury) terrorist list; and

Hong Kong Monetary Authority terrorist list.

The TIM has also set up a comprehensive accounting and audit system to track payments.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many social welfare payments under the Temporary International Mechanism have been stopped by HSBC because of concerns of terrorism. [135563]

Hilary Benn: The purpose of terrorist checks under the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) is to provide assurance that EU assistance is not being used to support terrorism. Between 27 August 2006, when payments under the TIM began, and 1 May 2007 one welfare payment has been withheld because the individual's name was on one of the internationally recognised terrorist lists.

Sudan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance he is *(a)* providing and *(b)* planning for policing in the internally displaced people's camps in Darfur. [135514]

Hilary Benn: Under the Darfur Peace Agreement, responsibility for monitoring security in camps for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Darfur rests with AMIS. The UK is currently paying the staff costs of the African Union Mission in Sudan's (AMIS) civilian police and military staff, as well as helping AMIS with its running costs.

The UK also has seconded 12 police officers to the EU Supporting Action to AMIS in Darfur to train and advise AMIS' civilian police force. These civilian police officers represent just under a half of the total EU contribution and cost the UK around £1 million a year.

TREASURY

Climate Change Levy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the use of clean coal technology and the administration of the climate change levy. [135593]

John Healey: The Government receives a range of representations on the climate change levy and considers these representations, alongside other policy advice within the normal PBR and Budget cycle.

Employment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employment in each constituency; what the corresponding figures were in 1997; and what the percentage change in numbers has been in each constituency. [135561]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 3 May 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people are in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employment in each constituency; what the corresponding figures were in 1997; and what the percentage change in numbers has been in each constituency. I am replying in her absence. (135561)

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The table, attached, shows the number of people in employment by full-time and part-time status for all constituencies, in Great Britain, for the 12 month period ending in February 1997 from the annual local area LFS and for the 12 months ending in September 2006 from the APS. Data for the new Scottish constituencies, introduced in May 2005, are not available for the earlier period. The table also shows the percentage change between the periods, although most of these percentage changes are not considered statistically significant.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, most of the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

Since the information is so extensive, a copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Loans: Students

Alan Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Government received for the sale of student loans in *(a)* 1998 and *(b)* 1999; and what the face value was of each of these loans at the time of sale; [132261]

(2) how much interest was paid to banks by the Government in support of the student loans scheme in each year since its inception. [132260]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

In 1998 the Government received £1 billion for the sale of student loans with a face value of £1.02 billion. In 1999 the Government received £1 billion for the sale of student loans with a face value of £1.03 billion. These are UK figures.

The following table shows the amount of interest subsidy paid to the debt sale owners in each year since 1998.

Financial year	*Subsidy (£000)*
1998-99	54,000
1999-2000	90,890
2000-01	110,476
2001-02	88,986
2002-03	88,963
2003-04	42,751
2004-05	48,091
2005-06	36,895

Note:
Figures are for England and Wales

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs offices are currently unstaffed; and what the estimated cost to the public purse is of such offices. [134311]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs currently holds 12 unstaffed offices which are still part of the estate due to various lease and legal title issues and longstanding commitments with other Government Departments.

The estimated annual cost of these offices is £1,435,512. HMRC is working to cease its liability for these offices as soon as is practical.

Skills in the UK Independent Review

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of employing Opinion Leader Research to organise the Skills Challenge: A Public Debate held on 8th February 2007 to discuss the Leitch Review. [133721]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

On behalf of the DfES, the Central Office of Information (COI) managed a competitive tendering process to organise and deliver "The Skills Challenge: A Public Debate" to be held on 8 February 2007. The tender was won by Opinion Leader Research, with a contract value of £153,484.38.

Stamp Duty: Suffolk

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties sold in *(a)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency and *(b)* the Suffolk county council area in each of the last three years attracted stamp duty at (i) zero per cent., (ii) 1 per cent., (iii) 3 per cent. and (iv) 4 per cent. [134687]

Ed Balls: Estimates of the number of property transactions for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the following table for Bury St. Edmunds parliamentary constituency and Suffolk county, grouped by stamp duty band.

	Property transactions attracting 0 per cent. rate[1]	*Property transactions attracting 1 per cent. rate*[2]	*Property transactions attracting 3 per cent. rate*[3]	*Property transactions attracting 4 per cent. rate*[4]	*Total*
Bury St. Edmunds					
2004-05	430	2,200	420	50	3,140
2005-06	1,300	2,200	510	90	4,100
2006-07	1,500	2,800	690	120	5,100

	Property transactions attracting 0 per cent. rate[1]	Property transactions attracting 1 per cent. rate[2]	Property transactions attracting 3 per cent. rate[3]	Property transactions attracting 4 per cent. rate[4]	Total
Suffolk					
2004-05	3,500	14,000	2,100	500	20,100
2005-06	8,600	10,500	2,400	420	21,900
2006-07	8,800	12,100	3,100	730	24,800

[1] Residential threshold £60,000 in 2004-05, £120,000 in 2005-06 and £125,000 in 2006-07. Non-residential threshold £150,000 in all years.
[2] £60,001 to £250,000 range for residential transactions in 2004-05, £120,001 to £250,000 for residential transactions in 2005-06, £125,001 to £250,000 in 2006-07, £150,001 to £250,000 for non-residential transactions in all years.
[3] £250,001 to £500,000.
[4] £500,001 or more.

The number of transactions bearing stamp duty will be lower than the number shown in the non-zero bands due to the use of various reliefs, e.g. disadvantaged area relief, group relief, registered social landlord relief etc. There are also some lease transactions which fall in the 0 per cent. band on account of consideration, but which bear stamp duty on the lease rental.

Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many legal proceedings were instigated for recovery of tax credit overpayments in each *(a)* year and *(b)* quarter since April 2003; what the average level is of overpayment outstanding for which legal action has been instigated; what the total value is of overpayments for which legal action has been instigated; what the average cost has been of pursuing a case through the courts; and how much has been recovered through court action. [133995]

Mr. Timms: In 2006-07 some 38,000 legal proceedings were commenced at an average value of £2,260 and an average cost to HMRC of £135 to instigate proceedings. The other information is not available.

Taxation: Agriculture

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons he plans to withdraw writing down allowances on industrial and agricultural buildings between 2008-09 and 2010-11; what assessment he has made of the likely impact of this change on the farming industry; how many farm businesses he estimates will be affected; and to what value. [135573]

John Healey: The Government's decision to withdraw the industrial and agricultural buildings allowances were based on an assessment of a number of issues, common across industry sectors. The Government have not sought to target the farming industry or any other industry with this change.

Industrial buildings allowances (IBAs) and agricultural buildings allowances (ABAs) were introduced in 1945 to encourage post-war reconstruction. They are now a poorly focused subsidy, selectively available on a disparate range of assets, including some that typically appreciate in value. IBAs and ABAs have long been recognised as a significant distortion in commercial property investment. These issues are compounded by the compliance burden imposed by their complicated rules.

The withdrawal of IBAs and ABAs is not an isolated measure. The Budget also announced cuts in both the basic rate of income tax and the main rate of corporation tax and introduced a new annual investment allowance (AIA) of £50,000 for business investment from 2008. Taken as a whole, these reforms to the business and personal tax systems are designed to deliver increases in investment and growth overall.

Taxation: Public Transport

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the impact on tax revenue of increased use of public transport; and if he will make a statement. [134639]

Mr. Timms: We monitor tax receipts on an ongoing basis and take into account all the relevant economic, social and environmental factors in future decisions.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what proportion of families with children are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* claimants of tax credits; [135559]

(2) what proportion of families without children are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* claimants of tax credits. [135560]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of take-up rates for child and working tax credits in 2003-04 and 2004-05, including information on families with children and families without children, are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

Written Questions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will be able to provide substantive replies to question *(a)* 133687, *(b)* 133686 and *(c)* 133685, on non-domicile tax status. [135263]

Ed Balls: I did so on 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1382W.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Sentencing: Appeals

Mike Penning: To ask the Solicitor-General how many unduly lenient sentences for crimes committed by serving police officers were referred to the Court of Appeal in *(a)* England, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* Dacorum in each of the last five years; and how many appeals were upheld in each year. [135324]

The Solicitor-General: I regret that information on sentences referred by the Law Officers to the Court of Appeal as unduly lenient is not recorded by reference to whether or not the offender was a serving police officer. This information can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost

SCOTLAND

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Department in the last 12 months. [135160]

David Cairns: None.

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134824]

David Cairns: In the period April 2006 to March 2007, there were no complaints of bullying in the Scotland Office.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135378]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has received no complaints of sexual harassment in the last 12 months.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Climate Change

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the role of scientific innovation in tackling climate change. [135426]

Mr. Darling: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to discuss a wide range of issues.

Corporate Social Responsibility Academy

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Corporate Social Responsibility Academy; and if he will make a statement. [135438]

Margaret Hodge: The CSR Academy played a significant role in raising the profile of CSR within UK companies. This success will now be built on as the work of the academy will continue through Business in the Community.

Trade Union Recognition

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to review the 21-employee threshold for trade union recognition by employers; and if he will make a statement. [135441]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The threshold was fully examined as part of the 2003 Review of the Employment Relations Act 1999. We continue to monitor the operation of the statutory recognition procedure, but we have no plans to undertake a further review of the threshold.

Africa: Exports

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what support the Government provided to British firms seeking to establish export agreements with African countries in the latest period for which figures are available. [134315]

Mr. McCartney *[pursuant to the reply, 1 May 2007, Official Report, c. 1560W]:* Incorrect figures were provided. They should read £6,194,177,000 and £5,777,083,000.

Bankruptcy

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to place in the Library a copy of the Office of Fair Trading Report on the mis-selling of individual voluntary arrangements. [134337]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Office of Fair Trading do not propose a specific report on the mis-selling of individual voluntary arrangements, however, its work in this area will be reported in its annual report, which will be laid before Parliament on 11 June 2007.

Business: Regulation

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress his Department has made towards reducing the burden of regulation on British businesses. [135428]

Margaret Hodge: The Department's progress on reducing regulation is set out in our Simplification Plan which was published on 11 December last year. We will publish another report on the progress we have made and the further plans we have later this year.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress his Department has made towards reducing the burden of regulation on British businesses. [135439]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given to the hon. Member for Mid-Bedfordshire (Mrs. Dorries) today.

Carbon Sequestration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received on the use of clean electricity generated using carbon capture and storage technology. [135592]

Malcolm Wicks: The Secretary of State has received many representations on CO_2 capture and storage (CCS).

The Budget 2007 announced that a competition will take place to demonstrate CCS on a full scale power plant in the UK. Further details will be announced in May 2007 and the outcome of the competition will be announced in 2008.

The Government are aware of eight to 10 potential full-scale CCS power plant demonstrations in the UK. My officials and the Department's technical adviser have discussed plans with all the project developers on a number of occasions.

Energy Policy Progress Review

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has made an estimate of the effect on costs to domestic customers and businesses arising from the time taken to publish the Government's Energy White Paper. [135429]

Mr. Darling: Consumers and businesses will benefit from the measures we will set out in the Energy White Paper, because they will help us deliver cleaner, more secure energy supplies.

Energy: Complaints

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to address the level of consumer complaints against energy companies. [135634]

Malcolm Wicks: Between 2002-03 and 2005-06, complaints to Energywatch declined substantially each year. We expect the final figures for 2006-07 to show an increase over 2005-06, principally because of complaints about British Gas. British Gas is working closely with Energywatch to address this. The Government have no plans to take any steps at this time. The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem), which is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, has extensive powers to act against suppliers that breach licence conditions.

Fuel Poverty

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many households in each parliamentary constituency were in fuel poverty in each year since 2001. [134612]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 27 April 2007]:* Fuel poverty statistics are currently only available at Government office region level. Latest available figures are sourced from the 2004 English House Condition Survey. Figures for fuel poverty in each of the Government office regions in 2001, 2003 and 2004 are given as follows. Figures for other years are not available.

	2001	*2003*	*2004*
North East	127,000	95,000	103,000
Yorkshire and Humber	232,000	180,000	163,000
North West	313,000	178,000	190,000
East Midlands	156,000	112,000	101,000
West Midlands	213,000	146,000	153,000
South West	212,000	139,000	134,000
East of England	137,000	115,000	141,000
South East	205,000	149,000	133,000
London	151,000	108,000	119,000

Small variations between years may be due to sampling variability, rather than underlying trends in the data.

A fuel poverty indicator giving estimates of the level of fuel poverty in small areas of England is due to be launched on 25 May 2007. These will be published at lower super output area, a geography that splits England into 32,482 areas.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what average damages have been recovered by the 20 law firms with the greatest volume of claims for *(a)* vibration white finger and *(b)* chronic bronchitis and emphysema. [134782]

Malcolm Wicks: The averages damages recovered by the 20 claimants' representatives with the greatest volume of claims for vibration white finger (VWF), and for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are shown on the following tables:

VWF

Claimants' representatives	*Claims registered*	*Average damages paid on claims settled by payment (£)*
Thompsons Solicitors	21,061	13,595
Browell Smith and Co.	16,466	9,622
Beresfords Solicitors	11,625	9,236
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	11,529	9,846
Raleys Solicitors	11,279	10,161
Hugh James	10,637	9,921
Graysons Solicitors	8,700	12,690
Moss Solicitors	7,374	9,287
Watson Burton LLP	5,934	13,519
Towells Solicitors	5,356	11,090

VWF

Claimants' representatives	*Claims registered*	*Average damages paid on claims settled by payment (£)*
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	5,301	8,788
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	3,668	11,733
Atteys	3,096	12,736
O. H. Parsons and Partners Solicitors	2,701	9,937
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors	2,363	12,446
Shaw and Co. Solicitors	2,256	14,630
Saffmans Solicitors	2,234	10,478
Kingslegal	1,885	7,535
Latham and Co. Solicitors	1,838	12,726
Corries Solicitors	1,677	16,700

COPD

Claimants' representatives	*Claims registered*	*Average damages paid on claims settled by payment (£)*
Beresfords Solicitors	80,860	2,504
Thompsons Solicitors	57,949	9,581
Hugh James	56,764	8,124
Raleys Solicitors	48,803	6,805
Browell Smith and Co.	32,965	7,201
Avalon Solicitors	32,419	2,063
Mark Gilbert Morse	25,738	7,546
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	16,630	3,210
Barber and Co.	14,090	2,697
Watson Burton LLP	14,077	4,349
Graysons Solicitors	12,964	4,637
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	10,201	3,094
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	9,846	5,879
Delta Legal	9,429	2,206
The Legal Warehouse	8,098	3,189
Moss Solicitors	7,939	4,175
Ingrams Solicitors	7,933	3,544
Birchall Blackburn	7,663	2,636
Corries Solicitors	7,459	3,241
German Hamilton Solicitors	6,245	3,093

In each of the tables, figures of Claims Registered may be lower than in the previous answers due to claimants having changed representatives.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many coal health claimants are awaiting a medical examination in *(a)* Bassetlaw and *(b)* the UK. [135425]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of coal health claimants that are currently awaiting a medical examination for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in Bassetlaw is 408 and in the UK is 65,221. For vibration white finger the figures for Bassetlaw is 35 and the UK is 1,639.

Iran: Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advice is being given by his Department to the Export Credit Guarantees Department on loan guarantees for UK exports to Iran. [134322]

Mr. McCartney: ECGD has advised Ministers on export credit cover policy towards Iran. For some time, ECGD has restricted the availability of cover. At present, applications for cover are not being processed pending clarification of the applicability of UN Security Council resolution 1747 to the provision of export credits. In any event, there has been a sharp decline in the demand for ECGD cover.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent changes have been made to Government policy on loan guarantees for UK exports to Iran; and if he will make a statement. [134323]

Mr. McCartney: ECGD has pursued a cautious policy towards Iran for some time. Cover capacity has been limited in order to contain exposure. In the light of recent developments with Iran, ECGD is required to consult Ministers before approving any applications for export credit support.

Since the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1747 in March, ECGD is not processing applications for cover pending clarification on its applicability to the provision of export credits to Iran. In any event, there has been a sharp decline in demand for ECGD cover.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his role is in decisions on whether to approve export credit guarantees to companies wishing to trade with Iran; and if he will make a statement. [134329]

Mr. McCartney: In the light of recent developments with Iran, ECGD is required to consult Ministers before approving any applications for export credit cover. No applications for cover are currently being processed pending clarification on the applicability of UN Security Council resolution 1747 to the provision of export credits. In any event, there has been a sharp decline in demand for cover for Iran.

Migrant Workers: Minimum Wage

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to ensure that migrant workers *(a)* receive the minimum wage and *(b)* are protected from employer coercion in relation to their terms of employment. [135069]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs minimum wage compliance teams are devoted to making sure all workers receive their entitlement to be paid at least the national minimum wage. Every year the DTI publicises details about the minimum wage

and the number to ring (0845 6000 678) if workers need more information or believe they are being underpaid. The helpline operators have access to language line interpreters so that callers can be phoned back allowing the caller to speak in their own language.

The Government will not tolerate the mistreatment of migrant workers. Legal migrant workers have the same employment rights and recourses as their UK equivalents. To ensure migrant workers are aware of their rights we have produced 'Know before you go' leaflets in partnership with the Polish, Lithuanian and Portuguese governments. The Home Office is also distributing a one page DTI note on "basic employment rights and where to go for further advice". This is going to all workers registering under the worker registration scheme and is available in a range of languages.

Nuclear Power

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 635W, on nuclear power, what additional areas the new consultation on nuclear energy will cover. [134929]

Malcolm Wicks: Our new consultation on nuclear energy will endeavour to bring together the evidence and analysis Government have collected and published since the Energy Review began. It will help people reach informed views and provide the Government with valuable contributions, which will help inform the Government's decision in the autumn.

Photovoltaics Demonstration Programme

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much money was *(a)* allocated for grants and *(b)* disbursed by the photovoltaics demonstration programme in each month since the scheme began. [131742]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* The information requested is as follows.

Solar PV major demonstration programme—Stream 1

Month	Allocated	£ Disbursed
May 2002	85,561.09	—
June 2002	52,438.31	—
July 2002	84,378.17	30,048.67
August 2002	117,793.37	—
September 2002	75,689.86	47,247.97
October 2002	76,759.51	30,409.03
November 2002	87,266.78	58,684.52
December 2002	66,086.17	57,053.46
January 2003	59,817.31	104,080.86
February 2003	143,515.52	44,170.58
March 2003	70,054.31	138,719.63
April 2003	243,640.28	71,205.77
May 2003	365,348.80	58,334.98
June 2003	191,564.75	102,304.25
July 2003	140,828.62	106,767.08
August 2003	65,930.96	55,097.04
September 2003	168,736.85	74,479.90
October 2003	76,087.92	165,466.36
November 2003	147,277.41	119,177.34
December 2003	58,479.80	94,257.62
January 2004	107,291.50	114,778.26
February 2004	171,295.44	101,200.14
March 2004	200,030.49	168,096.89
April 2004	233,205.54	64,246.96
May 2004	145,564.98	117,825.23
June 2004	157,736.86	105,666.35
July 2004	315,894.47	224,614.93
August 2004	235,219.75	159,648.82
September 2004	173,608.65	165,152.95
October 2004	187,956.96	188,901.73
November 2004	377,204.48	147,555.83
December 2004	175,170.80	197,485.24
January 2005	268,463.59	207,031.24
February 2005	424,280.76	226,405.26
March 2005	216,545.58	305,999.43
April 2005	308,615.73	150,887.68
May 2005	418,169.93	141,726.54
June 2005	442,438.55	231,318.86
July 2005	615,589.77	304,797.58
August 2005	191,426.43	347,963.13
September 2005	245,421.79	209,130.25
October 2005	145,837.02	266,885.05
November 2005	475,146.13	385,535.46
December 2005	297,141.81	341,359.53
January 2006	218,981.48	279,299.33
February 2006	326,285.00	290,560.81
March 2006	386,140.76	442,841.36
April 2006	310,900.00	126,589.89
May 2006	835,030.28	367,651.18
June 2006	554,511.98	387,622.46
July 2006	146,937.83	378,313.93
August 2006	73,651.24	326,151.90
September 2006	—	340,682.83
October 2006	—	380,580.38
November 2006	—	459,038.18
December 2006	—	357,755.50
January 2007	—	417,741.29
February 2007	—	297,782.06
March 2007	—	392,146.12

Solar PV major demonstration programme—Stream 2

Month	Allocated	£ Disbursed
July 2002	1,154,030.59	—
August 2002	—	—
September 2002	—	—
October 2002	—	—
November 2002	1,040,293.72	—
December 2002	—	—
January 2003	—	—
February 2003	—	—
March 2003	1,340,262.52	—
April 2003	—	—
May 2003	—	—

Solar PV major demonstration programme—Stream 2

Month	*Allocated*	*Disbursed*
		£
June 2003	1,524,080.13	16,184.83
July 2003	—	—
August 2003	—	112,158.80
September 2003	1,647,697.01	—
October 2003	—	72,486.05
November 2003	—	—
December 2003	868,202.49	57,437.61
January 2004	—	228,297.20
February 2004	—	31,065.45
March 2004	1,049,318.60	576,082.95
April 2004	—	—
May 2004	—	89,022.00
June 2004	1,499,136.60	154,603.45
July 2004	—	611,032.85
August 2004	—	485,437.18
September 2004	—	282,884.42
October 2004	1,031,184.12	405,726.08
November 2004	—	470,839.46
December 2004	450,357.21	219,815.33
January 2005	—	304,409.88
February 2005	—	155,001.35
March 2005	—	710,599.81
April 2005	—	216,426.00
May 2005	968,480.15	369,907.18
June 2005	—	472,971.44
July 2005	—	129,278.85
August 2005	942,883.28	405,132.34
September 2005	—	296,292.77
October 2005		232,614.30
November 2005	487,567.09	466,613.53
December 2005	—	384,627.88
January 2006	—	219,758.74
February 2006	—	322,374.36
March 2006	794,455.85	617,075.10
April 2006	—	88,008.00
May 2006	736,337.97	261,168.17
June 2006	—	76,054.89
July 2006	—	242,590.67
August 2006	—	299,499.68
September 2006	—	435,757.28
October 2006	—	392,786.59
November 2006	—	287,832.82
December 2006	—	90,443.72
January 2007	—	-531,801.50
February 2007	—	414,412.68
March 2007	—	1,701,912.28

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices closed in villages and towns with populations smaller than 10,000 inhabitants in 2006-07. [135242]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I understand from POL that the post office branches in settlements with populations smaller than 10,000 inhabitants are classified as rural branches. Also that for 2006-07 the net number of rural post office branch closures was 128.

Renewable Energy

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what account he expects the forthcoming Energy White Paper to take of the Government's binding commitments made at the European Union Summit on 9 March for renewable energy to supply 20 per cent. of overall EU energy consumption by 2020; and how he plans to meet these commitments. [135635]

Malcolm Wicks: The Energy White Paper will be published in May.

Sellafield: Accidents

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects the terms of reference for the Sellafield historic autopsy inquiry to be published. [134775]

Malcolm Wicks: The terms of reference for the inquiry were published on 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 28WS.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the families of those affected by the Sellafield autopsy issue will be consulted on the terms of reference for the investigation to be led by Michael Redfern QC. [134776]

Malcolm Wicks: Although the families of those affected have not been consulted on the terms of reference for the inquiry, I know that Mr. Redfern is keen to talk to them at an early stage in the inquiry.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how long the Sellafield historic autopsy investigation is expected to continue; and whether an investigation team will be based at or in the communities around Sellafield. [134777]

Malcolm Wicks: I have asked Michael Redfern QC to report to me as soon as possible. I anticipate that some of the work of the inquiry team will take place in West Cumbria.

Solar Power

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what account is taken in the proposed accreditation for solar PV installers of *(a)* the costs of entry into the marketplace for smaller companies and *(b)* the compliance costs on those existing small companies in the market. [132177]

Malcolm Wicks: The microgeneration certification scheme is a voluntary scheme covering product and installation standards and a code of practice. The scheme is an important market mechanism aimed at building consumer confidence in microgeneration technologies. The cost of compliance to companies is set at a level to ensure delivery of a robust United Kingdom Accreditation Services accredited scheme that will provide consumer protection.

The DTI is subsidising compliance costs for industry, including new and existing small companies, over the first year of the scheme. This measure should help to support companies wishing to join the scheme in the short term. In the longer term, industry should benefit from increased consumer confidence, which should encourage investment in microgeneration at the domestic level, growing the market.

Wind Power: Grants

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether all applications which have been made for Stream 1 grants for wind turbines which meet the criteria of the scheme have been approved. [134899]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme supports grant applications for a range of microgeneration technologies including wind turbines. To date, we have received 1,849 Stream 1 grant applications for wind turbine projects, of which 1,669 met the scheme criteria and were awarded grants.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Opium

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her estimate is of the number of hectares of land in Afghanistan which were *(a)* used to grow poppies and *(b)* destroyed as part of the eradication scheme in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [135558]

Dr. Howells: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's 2005 Afghanistan Opium Survey reported that 109,103 hectares of land was used to cultivate opium poppy in 2005, of which 5,103 hectares was eradicated. Their 2006 Afghanistan Opium Survey reported that 180,300 hectares of land was used to cultivate opium poppy in 2006, of which 15,300 hectares was eradicated.

Committee of Permanent Representatives: Secondment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British civil servants were seconded to work full-time for the Committee of Permanent Representatives in each year between 1997 and 2006. [134810]

Mr. Hoon: The Committee of Permanent Representatives is divided into two parts. The UK is represented in COREPER I by the UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU and in COREPER II by the UK Permanent Representative to the EU. No UK official, nor that of any other member state, is seconded to either part of COREPER.

Cuba: Political Prisoners

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made on the judicial process in Cuba and the provision of legal representation for defendants. [134522]

Mr. Hoon: The UK will continue to seek opportunities to raise human right issues, including judicial processes, with the Cuban authorities, despite the limited contact granted to us by the Cuban Government. On 30 April my right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade expressed concern about political prisoners and other human rights issues during a meeting with the Cuban Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, Antonio Carricarte. In addition, officials regularly voice UK concern with their Cuban counterparts over such issues.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many grievance procedures have been initiated in her Department in the last 12 months. [135155]

Mr. Hoon: Since 1 April 2006, 27 formal individual grievances have been submitted in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Guidance on the procedures in place for lodging grievances is available to all staff. All formal individual grievances are investigated in line with the procedures.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for which Government websites she is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135720]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has responsibility for 211 FCO websites, which cost £6 million to establish in 2001 and cost £650,000 to maintain in the year 2006-07. These websites include the main FCO Website, Ukvisas website, more than 180 embassy and high commission websites and the i-UK.com portal website. These fall under the following key domains with the associated number of visitors:

Domain	*Visitors*
www.fco.gov.uk[1]	8,255,352
www.britishembassy.gov.uk[1]	6,798,276
www.britishhighcommission.gov.uk[1]	3,025,405
www.ukvisas.gov.uk	5,326,484
www.i-uk.com[1]	613,740
www.gogapyear.com[2]	20,921

[1] Figures only available between 1 July 2006 and 30 April 2007. Monthly average taken to calculate 12 month total.
[2] Figures available between 1 September 2006 and 30 March 2007. Monthly average taken to calculate 12 month total.

These figures do not include 12 websites that have been run independently of the FCO web platform. We do not have figures for the number of visitors or cost of these sites. They are:

www.britainusa.com
www.britishembassy.ie
www.britishembassy.se

www.uknow.or.jp
www.uk.cn
www.britaus.net
www.bhcvictoria.sc
www.britain.or.ug
www.britischebotschaft.de
www.britemb.org.il
www.ukun.org

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in her Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134828]

Mr. Hoon: The number of formal complaints of bullying investigated in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the last 12 months is very small. In line with guidance issued by the Cabinet Office, the information requested can therefore not be released on grounds of confidentiality. Guidance on the procedures in place for those who have a concern related to any form of unfair discrimination, including bullying, is available to all staff.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in her Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135372]

Mr. Hoon: There have been no formal complaints of sexual harassment in the last 12 months in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Guidance on the procedures in place for those who have a concern over all forms of harassment is available to all staff.

EC Law

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many European Union Directives have been transposed into UK law in the last 12 months. [133216]

Mr. Hoon: Individual Government Departments are responsible for transposing EU Directives into UK law in their policy areas. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not transpose EU Directives. Transposition notes stating all the main elements of individual EU Directives that have been or will be transposed into UK law are available in the Library of the House.

EU Directives may be directly applicable, implemented by administrative means, or introduced when domestic legislation is amended for other purposes. The European Communities Act 1972 (the ECA) allows the Government to implement EU Directives either by primary legislation or by secondary legislation.

Standard Note SN/IA/2888, which is available in the Library of the House, gives information on the number of Statutory Instruments (S.I.) enacted under the ECA in each parliamentary session and the proportion of the total number of S.I.s this represents. Between 1998 and 2005 an average of 8.9 per cent. of S.I.s were laid in order to implement EU legislation.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many European Union Directives have been repealed from UK law in the last 12 months. [133217]

Mr. Hoon: House of Commons Standard Note SNIA-02888 states that 60 directives were repealed or expired in 2006. The Commission continue to make progress with their ambitious programme to simplify and reduce existing EU laws. In November 2006 they announced a further 43 simplification proposals and identified 10 pending proposals to be withdrawn. The UK continues to support the Commission's efforts. We welcome the agreement at the Spring European Council in March to cut administrative burdens by 25 per cent. by 2012; delivering on this commitment will help boost European competitiveness and help stimulate further the Lisbon jobs and growth agenda.

A detailed progress report on better regulation is available in the Commission's 2006 general report available at:

http://europa.eu/generalreport/en/welcome.htm

European Union: Communication

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the role is of the European Union working group of national communications experts; what she expects the *(a)* format and *(b)* agenda of the next meeting of the group to be; and if she will make a statement. [133082]

Mr. Hoon: The role of the Council's Information Working Group is to examine the information policy and communication strategy of the EU, to assess ways to increase transparency and openness of the Institutions, to provide access to documents and to promote co-operation between institutions.

The Information Working Group is composed of delegates of the 27 EU member states, representatives of the General Secretariat of the Council and representatives of the European Commission. Meeting agendas contain a list of topics and references to documents on which discussions will be held.

The Working Group on Information meets every two weeks in principle. The next meeting is scheduled for 10 May. The agenda for this meeting has not yet been circulated.

European Union: Publicity

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK representation is on the Interinstitutional Group on Information; what the agenda is for its next meeting; and when it will next meet. [133543]

Mr. Hoon: The Minister for Europe of the country holding the EU presidency attends the Interinstitutional Group on Information. Officials from the incoming presidency attend as observers.

As such, UK officials will attend the Interinstitutional Group on Information as observers six months ahead of the next UK presidency of the EU, and the UK will be represented at ministerial level when it holds the presidency.

The next meeting of the Interinstitutional Group on Information is scheduled for 22 May. The agenda for that meeting has not yet been circulated.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the documents produced by the Inter-institutional Group on information in each of the last 10 years. [133547]

Mr. Hoon: Requests for this information can be made to the European Commission direct. The Commission provides the Secretariat to the Inter-Institutional Group on Information.

India: Diplomatic Service

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how much ground rent is paid annually by the Indian Government for its high commission at 9 Kensington Gardens, London; and how much was paid for the current lease on the building; [135231]

(2) when the decision was made to make rent payable on the Indian high commission at 9 Kensington Gardens, London; for what reasons it was decided to levy a rental charge on the building; and if she will make a statement. [135232]

Mr. Hoon: The Indian high commissioner's residence, at 9 Kensington Palace Gardens, is leased by the Indian Government from the Crown Estate; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not involved.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports she has received of the decision of the Indian Government to charge rent to the British high commission in India at 2 Rajaji Marg, Delhi; and if she will make a statement; [135233]

(2) how much the Government are expected to pay the Indian Government in annual rent for the British high commission in India at 2 Rajaji Marg, Delhi; [135234]

(3) what representations she has made to the Indian Government on the rent payable on the British high commission in India; and if she will make a statement. [135235]

Mr. Hoon: The Government have paid rent on 2 Rajaji Marg, the high commissioner's residence in New Delhi, since independence in 1947. At present, we are in negotiation with the Indian authorities on renewal of the lease, which we hope will be concluded shortly. I am sure the hon. Member will understand that I cannot go into precise details without jeopardising our negotiating position.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Constituencies

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when the Privy Council is expected to meet to consider the statutory instrument bringing into effect the recent Boundary Commission report on English parliamentary constituencies. [134489]

Bridget Prentice: The House of Commons has now approved the draft order, and the House of Lords is due to consider it on 17 May. The next meeting of the Privy Council is on 13 June.

Devolution

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the formal arrangements for liaison between the UK Government and the devolved administration. [134788]

Bridget Prentice: There are strong bilateral relationships between the Scottish Executive and Welsh Assembly Government and Whitehall Departments, which are guided by principles underpinned in formal documents such as the Memorandums of Understanding between the UK Government and the devolved Administrations and supplementary concordats and devolution guidance notes, all of which are published on the Department's website. The Scotland and Wales Offices continue to work closely across Whitehall and with the devolved Administrations to ensure that good practice is followed and policies and legislation are successfully implemented, in a way that is consistent with the respective settlements.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Genetics

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many DNA samples have been taken by or, on behalf of, the Child Support Agency (CSA) in each year since its inception; in what circumstances and on what grounds the CSA may require someone to take a DNA test; how many DNA tests resulted in maintenance being demanded from those tested; how and by whom any DNA data obtained by the CSA are stored; for how long such data are stored; and to which other departments, agencies or authorities they may be made available. [130878]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 3 May 2007:

In reply your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many DNA samples have been taken by or on behalf of the Child Support Agency (CSA) in each year since its inception; in what circumstances and on what ground the CSA may require

someone to take a DNA test; how many DNA tests resulted in maintenance being demanded from those tested; how and by whom any DNA data obtained by the CSA is stored; for how long such data is stored; and to which other departments agencies or authorities it may be made available. [130878]

The Child Support Agency does not require DNA tests to be carried out but may suggest a DNA test in cases where the parentage of a qualifying child is disputed. The parent with care and alleged non-resident parent must consent to such a test, as must the qualifying child if he or she is over the age of 16. If the alleged non-resident parent refuses to take a DNA test, the Agency may assume parentage and proceed accordingly.

The information requested concerning the number of DNA tests undertaken on behalf of the Child Support Agency is provided in the attached table. However information is unavailable prior to 1997/8 and the Agency does not record information on how many DNA Tests result in the pursuit of maintenance from those tested. We do know that on average since 1997/98 around 84% of tests return a positive result and it may therefore be reasonable to assume that in these cases a maintenance assessment will be undertaken. We do not have figures on how many of these assessments result in a positive maintenance assessment and are subsequently pursued as there may also be other circumstances in which maintenance is not pursued, for example, if the parent with care requests the case be closed.

DNA samples are stored in a secure environment by the Agency's contractor. Access to the data is restricted to laboratory staff, and managed by swipe card access controlled doors, alongside a number of other security measures. The case data is retained by the contractor for 3 months, and case records are kept for 1 year after the case has been resolved, after which they are destroyed by shedding and incineration.

Finally the CSA does not routinely share data relating to individual DNA tests with any other Departments, Agencies or authorities.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of DNA tests undertaken on behalf of the Agency

	Number of tests taken
1997-98	3,750
1998-99	4,173
1999-2000	3,317
2000-01	2,938
2001-02	2,346
2002-03	4,146
2003-04	2,444
2004-05	2,888
2005-06	2,454

Note:
CSA clerical MI is used from 1997/98 to 2001/02 for the number of tests taken. MI from the DNA test contractor is used from 2002/03 onwards for the number of tests taken.

Correspondence

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many letters to his Department sent from hon. Members during Session 2005-06 remain unanswered, broken down by those which are *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three, *(d)* four and *(e)* over six months old. [114602]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have replied to 90 per cent. of the letters received by Ministers from hon. Members within 20 working days in both the 2005 and 2006 calendar years. We have also taken action to ensure the remainder are being dealt with as soon as possible thereafter. The available information shows that 425 of the letters received by Ministers from hon. Members during the 2006 calendar year remained unanswered on 10 January 2007. Of these *(a)* 64 were one month old, *(b)* seven were two months old and *(c)* six were three months old, *(d)* one was four months old and *(e)* none was older.

Departments: Parliamentary Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to his Department for oral answer have been transferred to other departments since May 2005. [133804]

Mrs. McGuire: Four oral questions by hon. and right hon. Members to the Department for Work and Pensions have been transferred to other Government Departments since 1 May 2005.

Departments: Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1064W, on Departments training, how much was spent on training courses for staff aimed at reducing benefit fraud and error in 2006; and how many staff attended these courses in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [133893]

Mrs. McGuire: Considerable effort and resources would need to be used on interrogating the Staff Information System in order to obtain information that could be used to work out costs for the 2006. Obtaining this level of information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1064W, on Departments training, how much was spent on training away days for departmental staff in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [133894]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on training away days is not classified separately from other learning and would be scheduled as an event along with other courses. Attendance at external events will have been recorded by individuals on their learning history. This information cannot be downloaded centrally. Obtaining this level of information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1064W, on departments: training, how many people attended each course in each of the last three years for which figures are available; how many days were allocated to each course; which of these training courses were conducted at off-site locations; and which locations were used. [133940]

Mrs. McGuire: Considerable effort and resources would need to be used to interrogate the Staff Information System to obtain the level of detail required for 2006. Previous to this there were no IT systems in place to collect such detailed information. Any information still available would be held clerically at a local level. Obtaining this level of information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1064W, on departments: training, how much was spent in 2006 on courses in *(a)* media training for ministers, *(b)* handling media for civil servants, *(c)* strategic communications planning for civil servants, *(d)* leadership in the outdoors for civil servants, *(e)* managing change for benefits releases for civil servants, *(f)* strategy training for civil servants, *(g)* fireworks for civil servants, *(h)* core consultancy skills for civil servants, *(i)* public leadership for civil servants, *(j)* the communications network programme for civil servants and *(k)* turnaround leadership for civil servants in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [133941]

Mrs. McGuire: *(a)* The total specific media training costs for Ministers for 2006 was £3,794.84. *(b-k)* Considerable effort and resources would need to be used on interrogating the Staff Information System in order to obtain the level of detail required to identify the spend in 2006. Previous to this there were no IT systems in place to collect such detailed information. Any information still available would be held clerically at a local level. Obtaining this level of information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1064W, on departments: training, how much was spent on courses for staff in his Department in *(a)* stress awareness, *(b)* self development, *(c)* self awareness, *(d)* creative thinking, *(e)* curriculum vitae writing, *(f)* running staff clubs, *(g)* facilitation skills, *(h)* non-verbal behaviour workshops, *(i)* intervention skills and *(j)* being a change agent workshops in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [133942]

Mrs. McGuire: Considerable effort and resources would need to be used on interrogating the Staff Information System in order to obtain the level of detail required for 2006. Previous to this there were no IT systems in place to collect such detailed information. Any information that may still be available would be held clerically at a local level. Obtaining this level of information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2084W, on departments: visits abroad, how much his Department spent on foreign visits by staff which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* destination and *(b)* departmental agency. [133895]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only by incurring disproportionate costs. The Department will incur just a minimal charge if a trip is cancelled in good time. For example the cancellation fee for flights is currently £9.25. For hotels, if cancelled before noon on date of arrival, the Department would not incur any cancellation charges at all.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 7th March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2084W, on Departments: visits abroad, what the foreign travel costs in his Department were for the last three years, broken down by *(a)* destination, *(b)* type of expenditure and *(c)* departmental agency. [133896]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is available for the last 12 months but would require a detailed clerical examination in order to present it in the format requested, which would incur disproportionate costs.

Lone Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of single parents on income support *(a)* have never been married, *(b)* are separated, *(c)* are divorced and *(d)* are widowers; and if he will give equivalent data for (i) five, (ii) 10, (iii) 15, (iv) 20 and (v) 30 years ago. [135703]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* existing and *(b)* new (i) incapacity benefit and (ii) disability living allowance claimants received an independent medical assessment in each of the last five years. [131823]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits: Young People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of 18 to 24-year-olds who were classified as not in employment, education or training, and who were claiming benefits, had been in that condition for *(a)* 0 to six months, *(b)* six to 12 months, *(c)* 12 to 24 months and *(d)* 24 months and over in each quarter since 1992. [122108]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 February 2007]:* The information requested is not available.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Grants

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* the Film Council and *(b)* the Arts Council of England (i) received from the National Lottery in 2006 and (ii) will receive from the National Lottery in 2007. [135554]

Mr. Caborn: The following table shows the UK Film Council's and Arts Council of England's income, including investment income from the National Lottery Distribution Fund, for the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07; and estimated figures based on the Departments latest income projections, for 2007-08.

£

	Distributor	
	UK Film Council	*Arts Council of England*
Income 2005-06 to nearest £1,000	30,342,000	172,093,000
Income 2006-07 to nearest £1,000	26,289,000	149,257,000
Projected income 2007-08 to nearest £1,000	29,942,000	154,563,000

Departments: Energy

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in her Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136091]

Mr. Lammy: Guidance on energy saving, including switching off computers and monitors when not in use, is published on the Department's intranet. We are currently evaluating various tools aimed at making it easier to automatically manage IT power usage out of hours.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was of the change in name from the Department of National Heritage to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. [134234]

Mr. Lammy: Following the introduction of the Department's new name in July 1997, a detailed review of all of the Department's internal and external communications processes was undertaken.

Part of this review included the production of a new visual identity or logo. The cost of this element of the review was £26,000. The work included the development of the logo and the layout of all internal and external documents and stationery.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by her Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [134995]

Mr. Lammy: The Department purchased 4,412362 kilowatt hours from renewable sources in 2006-07.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in her Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135367]

Mr. Lammy: There have been no complaints of sexual harassment investigated in this Department in the last 12 months.

Gambling Act 2005

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what risk assessment has been carried out by her Department of the timetable and critical milestones leading to the 1 September implementation date for the Gambling Act 2005; and if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's plan for managing risks identified. [132802]

Mr. Caborn: As part of its programme management arrangements, the Department has assessed the risk to the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 by 1 September 2007 at both individual workstream and overall programme level. Identified risks are monitored regularly and suitable controls are put in place. The plan for managing risks is an integral part of the programme risk register. I am unable to disclose the content of the register as to do so would inhibit the future provision of free and frank advice, and exchange of views.

Gambling: Licensing

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of companies in the UK gaming industry had applied for Operator Licences under the Gambling Act 2005 as at 31 March 2007. [132798]

Tessa Jowell: It is estimated that there are between 3,500 and 4,000 gambling operators in Great Britain. The number of operators who had applied to the Gambling Commission for operating licences by 31 March 2007 was 259, or 6-7 per cent. At 20 April it had received 758 applications which is estimated to be 19-22 per cent. of all operators.

However, of the approximate number of operators who are encouraged to apply by 27 April in order to secure continuation rights, the Gambling Commission had received applications from 11 per cent. by 31 March and 32 per cent. by 20 April.

Horserace Totalisator Board

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1120W, on the horserace totalisator board; what discussions her Department has had with personnel from HM Treasury concerning the future of the Tote; when she expects to announce how the Government will proceed; and what time scales apply to her definition of shortly. [135822]

Mr. Caborn: The Government are considering the offer they have received for the Tote businesses. We hope to be able to reach a decision on whether to proceed with further negotiations in the course of the next few weeks.

Labour Party: Fund Raising

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role *(a)* UK Sport, *(b)* Sport England, *(c)* the English Institute of Sport and *(d)* the Youth Sports Trust will play in the Labour Party sports fundraiser to be held in July. [135566]

Mr. Caborn: The organisations listed will be playing no role in the event outlined.

Sport England

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what Sport England's public service agreement targets are. [135568]

Mr. Caborn: Sport England, as a non-departmental public body, does not have public service agreements (PSA), but does contribute towards delivery of the following Government PSAs:

PSA Target 1: To enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities by five to 16-year-olds so that the percentage of school children who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high-quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum increases from 25 per cent. in 2002 to 75 per cent. in 2006 and 85 per cent. by 2008; and to at least 75 per cent. in each School Sport Partnership by 2008 (joint target between the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES)).

PSA Target 2: To halt the year on year increase in obesity among children under 11 years by 2010, as part of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole (joint target between DCMS, DfES and Department of Health).

PSA Target 3: By 2008, increase the takeup of cultural and sporting opportunities by adults and young people aged 16 and above from priority groups by:

Increasing the number who participate in active sports at least 12 times a year by 3 per cent. and increasing the number who engage in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity level sport, at least three times a week by 3 per cent.

Sports: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what level of funding will be available to *(a)* Sportswatch and *(b)* the National Sports Foundation in each of the next three years. [135567]

Mr. Caborn: It is not possible to confirm any funding allocations for the next three years until departmental settlements from the comprehensive spending review 2007 are known.

Sports: Schools

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of school children took part in a minimum of two hours of PE or sport per week in school time in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [135395]

Mr. Caborn: The joint DCMS/DfES National School Sport Strategy which aimed to increase the percentage of 5 to 16-year-olds spending at least two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport to 75 per cent. by 2006 and 85 per cent. by 2008 within and beyond the curriculum, commenced on the 1 April 2003.

Progress against the target for children in School Sport Partnerships is measured annually using the National School Sport Survey. The Survey has demonstrated that 62 per cent. of school children achieved this target in 2003-04; 69 per cent. in 2004-05 and 80 per cent. in 2005-06.

No data are available prior to the implementation of the strategy.

HEALTH

Breast Cancer: Screening

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate her Department has made of the attendance take-up rate of women aged between 50 and 70 years attending breast cancer screenings in each London primary care trust area; and if she will make a statement; [133761]

(2) what assessment she has made of the impact of recent trends in the number of breast screenings in North London; [133822]

(3) how many breast screening appointments were undertaken by each primary care trust in London in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [133823]

(4) how many breast screenings were undertaken by each primary care trust in London in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [133824]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 April 2007]:* The following tables show the coverage of women aged 50-70 in the London strategic health authority (SHA) area by primary care trust as at 31 March 2006. They also show the number of invites in the last four years by breast screening unit.

Additional information can also be found in 'Breast Screening Programme, England 2005-06' (ISBN: 1-84636-095-1), a copy of which is available in the Library.

The other information requested is not held centrally.

Breast screening programme: coverage of women aged 50-70 in London strategic health authority by primary care trust, 31 March 2006

		50-70			50-52		
	Org code	Eligible population[1]	Number of women screened within 3 years	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	Eligible population[1]	Number of women screened within 3 years	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)
London strategic health authority	—	719,656	395,499	55.0	127,764	48,119	37.7
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	14,514	9,039	62.3	2,568	1,079	42.0
Barnet PCT	5A9	35,299	19,296	54.7	6,034	2,225	36.9
Bexley Care Trust	TAK	24,914	17,433	70.0	3,956	1,523	38.5
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	27,565	14,569	52.9	5,118	2,033	39.7
Bromley PCT	5A7	36,613	23,868	65.2	5,706	2,335	40.9
Camden PCT	5K7	16,960	8,202	48.4	2,978	765	25.7
City and Hackney PCT	5C3	17,456	7,755	44.4	3,679	887	24.1
Croydon PCT	5K9	34,644	18,078	52.2	6,061	1,848	30.5
Ealing PCT	5HX	31,366	16,658	53.1	5,723	2,244	39.2
Enfield PCT	5C1	28,535	14,727	51.6	4,935	1,765	35.8
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	21,548	13,676	63.5	3,902	1,773	45.4
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	14,348	6,408	44.7	2,609	734	28.1
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	22,381	10,036	44.8	4,233	1,351	31.9
Harrow PCT	5K6	24,228	15,295	63.1	4,118	2,077	50.4
Havering PCT	5A4	29,541	19,107	64.7	4,572	1,938	42.4
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	25,638	15,392	60.0	4,407	2,151	48.8
Hounslow PCT	5HY	22,695	11,132	49.1	4,179	1,388	33.2
Islington PCT	5K8	15,991	7,982	49.9	2,968	1,008	34.0
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	16,012	6,925	43.2	2,763	759	27.5
Kingston PCT	5A5	16,680	10,020	60.1	2,997	1,236	41.2
Lambeth PCT	5LD	22,801	12,597	55.2	4,529	1,867	41.2
Lewisham PCT	5LF	22,293	13,693	61.4	4,125	1,935	46.9
Newham PCT	5C5	20,368	9,903	48.6	3,973	1,553	39.1
Redbridge PCT	5NA	24,673	13,179	53.4	4,410	2,001	45.4
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	18,961	9,932	52.4	3,242	1,268	39.1
Southwark PCT	5LE	19,974	10,997	55.1	3,930	1,277	32.5
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	37,178	21,518	57.9	6,348	2,455	38.7
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	13,372	6,206	46.4	2,478	927	37.4
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	21,737	12,372	56.9	3,963	1,443	36.4
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	23,018	11,939	51.9	4,108	1,489	36.2
Westminster PCT	5LC	18,353	7,565	41.2	3,152	785	24.9

		53-54			55-59		
	Org code	Eligible population[1]	Number of women screened within 3 years	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	Eligible population[1]	Number of women screened within 3 years	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)
London strategic health authority	—	78,700	49,969	63.5	197,783	127,272	64.3
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	1,628	1,160	71.3	3,944	2,800	71.0
Barnet PCT	5A9	3,810	2,490	65.4	9,726	6,613	68.0
Bexley Care Trust	TAK	2,550	1,927	75.6	6,947	5,322	76.6
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	3,083	1,926	62.5	7,114	4,530	63.7
Bromley PCT	5A7	3,754	2,793	74.4	10,500	7,816	74.4
Camden PCT	5K7	1,810	1,159	64.0	4,694	2,923	62.3
City and Hackney PCT	5C3	1,966	1,100	56.0	4,698	2,619	55.7
Croydon PCT	5K9	3,754	2,314	61.6	9,731	6,181	63.5
Ealing PCT	5HX	3,546	2,287	64.5	8,446	5,387	63.8
Enfield PCT	5C1	2,993	1,860	62.1	7,763	4,893	63.0
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	2,332	1,588	68.1	5,922	4,116	69.5
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	1,556	842	54.1	3,911	2,148	54.9
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	2,558	1,393	54.5	6,059	3,387	55.9
Harrow PCT	5K6	2,570	1,856	72.2	6,504	4,751	73.0
Havering PCT	5A4	2,946	2,358	80.0	8,438	6,685	79.2
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	2,704	1,837	67.9	7,144	4,904	68.6
Hounslow PCT	5HY	2,598	1,556	59.9	6,327	3,719	58.8

	Org code	53-54 Eligible population[1]	53-54 Number of women screened within 3 years	53-54 Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	55-59 Eligible population[1]	55-59 Number of women screened within 3 years	55-59 Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)
Islington PCT	5K8	1,796	1,034	57.6	4,300	2,473	57.5
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	1,740	842	48.4	4,519	2,256	49.9
Kingston PCT	5A5	1,819	1,286	70.7	4,877	3,525	72.3
Lambeth PCT	5LD	2,559	1,542	60.3	5,887	3,614	61.4
Lewisham PCT	5LF	2,414	1,616	66.9	5,754	3,843	66.8
Newham PCT	5C5	2,442	1,419	58.1	5,473	3,193	58.3
Redbridge PCT	5NA	2,771	1,416	51.1	6,847	3,718	54.3
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	2,136	1,209	56.6	5,724	3,400	59.4
Southwark PCT	5LE	2,200	1,378	62.6	5,242	3,264	62.3
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	3,954	2,699	68.3	10,544	7,198	68.3
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	1,610	834	51.8	3,359	1,784	53.1
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	2,482	1,645	66.3	5,885	3,767	64.0
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	2,526	1,567	62.0	6,476	3,919	60.5
Westminster PCT	5LC	2,093	1,036	49.5	5,028	2,524	50.2

	Org code	60-64 Eligible population[1]	60-64 Number of women screened within 3 years	60-64 Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)	65-69 Eligible population[1]	65-69 Number of women screened within 3 years	65-69 Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)
London strategic health authority	—	155,560	98,825	63.5	134,775	62,954	46.7
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	3,022	2,057	68.1	2,796	1,747	62.5
Barnet PCT	5A9	7,825	5,321	68.0	6,641	2,366	35.6
Bexley Care Trust	TAK	5,605	4,340	77.4	4,952	3,704	74.8
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	5,978	3,786	63.3	5,298	2,051	38.7
Bromley PCT	5A7	8,207	5,918	72.1	7,092	4,370	61.6
Camden PCT	5K7	3,666	2,308	63.0	3,192	950	29.8
City and Hackney PCT	5C3	3,518	1,940	55.1	3,050	1,114	36.5
Croydon PCT	5K9	7,414	4,666	62.9	6,540	2,800	42.8
Ealing PCT	5HX	6,681	4,147	62.1	5,877	2,302	39.2
Enfield PCT	5C1	6,249	3,887	62.2	5,544	2,091	37.7
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	4,644	3,162	68.1	4,024	2,592	64.4
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	3,216	1,754	54.5	2,611	867	33.2
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	4,678	2,587	55.3	4,118	1,214	29.5
Harrow PCT	5K6	5,417	3,912	72.2	4,748	2,358	49.7
Havering PCT	5A4	6,606	5,033	76.2	5,794	2,749	47.4
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	5,500	3,630	66.0	4,913	2,494	50.8
Hounslow PCT	5HY	4,770	2,810	58.9	4,077	1,517	37.2
Islington PCT	5K8	3,472	2,015	58.0	2,896	1,261	43.5
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	3,639	1,863	51.2	2,889	1,076	37.2
Kingston PCT	5A5	3,550	2,472	69.6	2,907	1,387	47.7
Lambeth PCT	5LD	4,877	2,865	58.7	4,201	2,338	55.7
Lewisham PCT	5LF	4,816	3,143	65.3	4,365	2,675	61.3
Newham PCT	5C5	4,075	2,330	57.2	3,758	1,295	34.5
Redbridge PCT	5NA	5,278	3,004	56.9	4,546	2,564	56.4
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	4,185	2,504	59.8	3,096	1,407	45.4
Southwark PCT	5LE	4,106	2,526	61.5	3,776	2,181	57.8
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	8,011	5,488	68.5	6,986	3,351	48.0
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	2,753	1,348	49.0	2,687	1,142	42.5
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	4,696	2,938	62.6	4,019	2,213	55.1
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	4,964	2,992	60.3	4,125	1,770	42.9
Westminster PCT	5LC	4,142	2,079	50.2	3,257	1,008	30.9

70

	Org code	Eligible population[1]	Number of women screened within 3 years	Coverage (less than 3 years since last test) (%)
London strategic health authority	—	25,074	8,360	33.3
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	556	196	35.3
Barnet PCT	5A9	1,263	281	22.2
Bexley Care Trust	TAK	904	617	68.3
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	974	243	24.9
Bromley PCT	5A7	1,354	636	47.0
Camden PCT	5K7	620	97	15.6
City and Hackney PCT	5C3	545	95	17.4
Croydon PCT	5K9	1,144	269	23.5
Ealing PCT	5HX	1,093	291	26.6
Enfield PCT	5C1	1,051	231	22.0
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	724	445	61.5
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	445	63	14.2
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	735	104	14.1
Harrow PCT	5K6	871	341	39.2
Havering PCT	5A4	1,185	344	29.0
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	970	376	38.8
Hounslow PCT	5HY	744	142	19.1
Islington PCT	5K8	559	191	34.2
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	462	129	27.9
Kingston PCT	5A5	530	114	21.5
Lambeth PCT	5LD	748	371	49.6
Lewisham PCT	5LF	819	481	58.7
Newham PCT	5C5	647	113	17.5
Redbridge PCT	5NA	821	476	58.0
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	578	144	24.9
Southwark PCT	5LE	720	371	51.5
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	1,335	327	24.5
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	485	171	35.3
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	692	366	52.9
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	819	202	24.7
Westminster PCT	5LC	681	133	19.5

[1]This is the number of women in the resident population less those recorded as ineligible.

Notes:

1. Coverage is best assessed using the 53-64 age group as women may be first called at any time between their 50th and 53rd birthdays.
2. The coverage of the screening programme is the proportion of women resident and eligible who have had a test with a recorded result at least once in the previous three years (excluding those ineligible, e.g. those that have had a bilateral mastectomy)

Source:

KC63 The Information Centre

Childbirth

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what proportion of babies were born after less than *(a)* 28 weeks, *(b)* 27 weeks, *(c)* 26 weeks, *(d)* 25 weeks, *(e)* 24 weeks, *(f)* 23 weeks and *(g)* 22 weeks gestation in (i) the latest period for which figures are available, (ii) 2001, (iii) 1990 and (iv) 1980; [134160]

(2) how many and what proportion of babies weighed equal to or less than *(a)* 2500 grams, *(b)* 2000 grams, *(c)* 1500 grams and *(d)* 1000 grams at birth in (i) the latest year for which figures are available, (ii) 2000, (iii) 1990 and (iv) 1980. [134161]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data taken from "NHS Maternity Statistics for England for 2004-05" (the most recent year for which we have data), 2000-01, and 1994-95 (the earliest year for which we have data), are set out in the tables. Each category includes all of the smaller categories.

	2004-05		2000-01		1994-95	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Total births	584,100		564,300		604,300	
Under 22 weeks	170	0.03	190	0.03	130	0.02
Under 23 weeks	270	0.05	330	0.06	250	0.04
Under 24 weeks	510	0.09	550	0.10	460	0.07
Under 25 weeks	1,110	0.19	1,050	0.19	960	0.16

	2004-05		2000-01		1994-95	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Under 26 weeks	1,610	0.28	1,550	0.27	1,460	0.24
Under 27 weeks	2,310	0.40	2,050	0.36	2,060	0.34
Under 28 weeks	3,110	0.53	2,850	0.51	2,760	0.46

	2004-05		2000-01		1994-95	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Under 1,000g	3,600	0.62	3,100	0.55	2,800	0.46
Under 1,500g	7,800	1.34	6,800	1.20	6,700	1.11
Under 2,000g	15,900	2.72	14,300	2.53	14,500	2.40
Under 2,500g	42,500	7.28	39,000	6.91	39,300	6.50

Cost Shunting

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 777, on cost shunting, whether she has made an assessment of the merits of permitting primary care trusts and local authority social services departments *(a)* to amalgamate to form one organisation and *(b)* to amalgamate their budgets to operate strategically through a single budget. [134991]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department encourages close co-operation between local authorities and primary care trusts as this is in the best interests of the overall health and social care system and in improving the health and well-being of local communities. The approach taken to this co-operation is a matter for local decision, but there are powers to make joint appointments and for partnership arrangements, which include powers to create single pooled budgets, to be established as permitted under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 and for an application to be made to the Secretary of State to establish a care trust as permitted under section 45 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001.

Good Hope Hospital

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancelled operations there were in each of the last 10 years at Good Hope Hospital. [134508]

Andy Burnham: Data were collected at health authority level only prior to 2001-02. From 2001-02 onwards, data were collected at trust level.

The number of last minute cancelled operations for non-clinical reasons at Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06 are shown in the table.

Last minute cancelled operations for non-clinical reasons

	Number
2001-02	550
2002-03	781
2003-04	761
2004-05	465
2005-06	565

Note:
A last minute cancellation is one that occurs on the day the patient was due to arrive, after they have arrived in hospital, or on the day of their operation.
Source:
Department of Health dataset quarterly monitoring of cancelled operations (QMCO).

Health Services: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with Warrington Primary Care Trust on its decision to stop funding treatment services at a GP practice in Birchwood; and if she will make a statement. [135570]

Andy Burnham: The Department has had no discussions with Warrington primary care trust about the funding of treatment services at a general practitioner practice in Birchwood.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people who work but do not live in Birchwood have been treated by the GP practices there in the last 12 months; and what assessment has been made of the likely impact on accident and emergency services at Warrington Hospital if there was a reduction in the number and types of services available at those practices; [135571]

(2) if she will ensure that an independent expert in primary care is appointed to review treatment room services provided in Birchwood during the six months of extended funding which has been offered by the primary care trust. [135572]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally. Warrington primary care trust, working in conjunction with North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust, is responsible for assessing the impact of any proposed changes to service provision.

Health Visitors: Manpower

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of health visitors working in the NHS; and what steps she is taking to increase these numbers. [135301]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 1 May 2007]*: There were 12,034 health visitors in post as at 30 September 2006 in the national health services in England.

The overall number of nurses working in primary and community care settings has significantly increased by over 29,500 (38.2 per cent.) since 1997.

It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to commission, develop services in response to local needs, and to ensure that appropriate services are provided for the local population.

Healthcare: Acquired Infections

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 723W, on healthcare-acquired infections, when she expects the Health Protection Agency to publish on its website the number of reported cases of *(a)* MRSA and *(b) Clostridium difficile* for the period April 2006 to March 2007; and if she will make a statement. [132310]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infections have been collected through the mandatory surveillance scheme since April 2001 and are published by financial year (April to March). The Health Protection Agency (HPA) plans to publish the data for the last financial year (April 2006 to March 2007) in late July 2007.

Data on *Clostridium difficile* associated disease have been collected through the mandatory surveillance scheme since January 2004 and are published by calendar year. Data for 2006 are due to be published in April 2007 and the HPA plans to publish the data for the first quarter of 2007 (January to March) in late July 2007.

Data on both diseases have been routinely published quarterly since January 2007.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 774W, on MRSA, what progress her Department has made on its internal desk analysis of hospital organisation specialty mix and MRSA; and when she plans to publish the report. [131929]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As part of its programme to reduce healthcare associated infections the Department is undertaking peer review of this internal desk analysis. It is planned to publish this later this year once the peer review is complete.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of STERIS Vaporized Hydrogen Peroxide technology in tackling MRSA within the NHS. [132968]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Rapid Review Panel has reviewed Steris' vaporised hydrogen peroxide and awarded it a recommendation 2 stating that basic research and development has been completed and the product may have potential value; in use evaluations/trials are now needed in an national health service clinical setting.

The Department is currently funding a project to evaluate environmental cleaning for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. As part of this Steris' vaporised hydrogen peroxide equipment will be evaluated alongside wet disinfection in both a hospital side room and a controlled exposure chamber.

Hospitals: Hygiene

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on improving hygiene in hospitals in each of the last five years. [132729]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not collected centrally on the amount that has been spent on hospital hygiene in the last five years. However, as a measure of the importance that the Government attach to this matter, a capital fund of £50 million was launched in December 2006 to support local initiatives to improve hygiene standards.

Hospitals: Leeds

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the plans for a children's and maternity hospital in Leeds. [132969]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Making Leeds Better is a comprehensive plan for improving healthcare in the city. It is the ambition of the Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust, the Leeds Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the national health service to centre children's services on one new site in the city. This remains the case.

However, concerns have been raised about the affordability of this project. Leeds PCT is investigating how this might be resolved prior to public consultation and the next major milestone, the submission of the outline business case, which is still over 20 months away.

No decision will be taken on Making Leeds Better without public involvement.

Hyperactivity

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* the area corresponding as closely as possible to Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland were diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in each of the last seven years. [134771]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not collected on the number of people diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

In March 2006, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidance on the use of drugs to treat ADHD. NICE has estimated that around 5 per cent. of school-aged children meet the diagnostic criteria for ADHD, equivalent to 366,000 children and adolescents in England and Wales, but not all these children will require medication.

The position concerning ADHD in adults is unclear. There have been a number of follow-up studies of those given the diagnosis as children, which indicate that a small proportion may continue with ADHD problems into adulthood.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 746W, on Members' correspondence, when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay of 14 March on the proposed independent sector treatment centre for Basildon. [134940]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 30 April 2007]:* I will respond to the letter of 14 March from the hon. Member for Billericay shortly.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1045W, on Members' correspondence, when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay of 8 March concerning Mr. O'Reilly. [134941]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 April 2007]:* The Department received a copy of the letter from the hon. Member on 26 April 2007. A reply was issued on 2 May 2007.

Mental Health Services: Greater Manchester

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was provided in unweighted allocated funds per head of population for mental health services in *(a)* Trafford and *(b)* Salford in the last 12 months. [135665]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Separate allocations are not made for mental health services. It is for each primary care trust (PCT) to determine what proportion of the resources allocated to it are spent on commissioning mental health services and on the other health care needs of their local populations.

The latest allocations made to the Salford and Trafford PCTs are set out in the following table.

		£ million
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Salford	346.8	374.6
Trafford	275.4	299.5

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average time was between referral and first appointment for primary care psychological services in *(a)* Trafford and *(b)* Salford in the last 12 months. [135667]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Mid-Essex Primary Care Trust

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 132W, on Mid-Essex Primary Care Trust, how many administrative staff there are in the Mid-Essex Primary Care Trust. [127913]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows the staffing figures as at September 2006 (which are the latest data available within the Department).

NHS hospital and community health services: administrative staff in the Mid-Essex primary care trust[1] by level as at 30 September 2006

	2005[1]	*2006*
Headcount		
Total administrative staff	365	342
Senior manager	18	19
Manager	56	51
Clerical and administrative	291	272
Full-time equivalent		
Total administrative staff	283	264
Senior manager	18	18
Manager	52	47
Clerical and administrative	213	199

[1] Mid-Essex PCT was formed on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Chelmsford PCT, Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT and Waltham, Braintree and Halstead care trust. 2005 figures are an aggregate of these three predecessor organisations, provided for the purposes of comparison. Due to various complex issues, it is not possible to directly compare previous staffing levels with those of the newly formed PCT—as not all local authority boundaries are co-terminus with those of PCT.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Multiple Sclerosis: Medical Treatments

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people received treatment for multiple sclerosis in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997; [135314]

(2) how many people were diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [135316]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of people diagnosed with, and receiving treatment for, multiple sclerosis is not collected.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many claims for alleged clinical negligence against the NHS were closed in each year since 1995; what the cost was of such claims in each year in *(a)* nominal and *(b)* real terms; and how many and what proportion of such claims were successful in each year. [133524]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* Information on closed claims is presented within the following tables.

Table 1 shows how many clinical negligence claims have been closed by year since 1995, and includes what proportion of such claims were closed with damages (successful).

Table 2 shows the costs of closed clinical negligence claims by year since 1995 in nominal and real terms.

The following points should be noted:

The tables only include closed claims. It therefore excludes claims which are open but resolved for example, where the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) are still negotiating legal fees or where there is an ongoing obligation to make payments to the patient, such as where a periodic payment regime exists.

Category A claims are lower value claims that were handled by individual trusts up to 2002, and were reported to NHSLA upon completion. The NHSLA cannot account for the accuracy of the reported data.

Similarly, until 2000, individual trusts handled and funded existing liabilities scheme (ELS) claims less than £10,000 themselves. However these claims were never notified to the NHSLA on completion. Hence any of these smaller valued claims which closed prior to the ELS call-in in April 2000 will be missing from the data.

Table 2 shows the total value of the claims which closed in the year in question but the actual payments may have been spread over several financial years.

The real terms figures in table 2 are calculated using the deflator series provided by HM Treasury on 28 March 2007.

Table 1: Number of clinical negligence claims closed by year of closure including category A claims

Number of claims

Year of closure	*Closed—nil damages*	*Closed with damages*	*Total closed*	*% Closed with damages*
1995-96	90	11	101	10.89
1996-97	175	60	235	25.53
1997-98	218	731	949	77.03
1998-99	1,713	2,344	4,057	57.78
1999-2000	2,794	3,771	6,565	57.44
2000-01	3,822	3,080	6,902	44.62
2001-02	4,995	3,761	8,756	42.95
2002-03	3,981	2,939	6,920	42.47
2003-04	4,043	3,140	7,183	43.71
2004-05	4,101	3,501	7,602	46.05
2005-06	3,146	3,333	6,479	51.44
2006-07	3,330	3,208	6,538	49.07
Grand total	32,408	29,879	62,287	47.97

Table 2: Value of clinical negligence claims closed by year of closure including category A claims

Payments

Year of closure	*Damages paid*	*Defence costs paid*	*Claimant costs paid*	*Total paid*	*Total paid in real terms with 2005-06 as reference year*
1995-96	170,028	56,476	68,016	294,520	378,551
1996-97	1,063,160	363,379	342,282	1,768,821	2,199,451
1997-98	36,541,852	7,065,903	10,353,934	53,961,690	65,203,410
1998-99	75,560,281	21,541,336	26,922,960	124,024,578	146,146,822
1999-2000	285,740,566	42,490,778	64,751,113	392,982,457	453,900,434
2000-01	187,053,823	35,708,422	44,260,552	267,022,797	304,140,048
2001-02	374,545,865	56,642,017	72,446,479	503,634,360	560,340,855
2002-03	357,000,453	48,001,443	62,273,578	467,275,474	504,284,946
2003-04	279,212,845	43,286,729	58,283,364	380,782,938	399,076,610
2004-05	375,299,535	52,815,271	76,055,705	504,170,511	514,213,093
2005-06	372,820,500	49,598,018	83,232,436	505,650,954	505,650,954
2006-07	332,747,955	49,735,584	83,793,055	466,276,595	455,001,654
Grand total	2,677,756,865	407,305,356	582,783,474	3,667,845,695	3,910,536,828

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason the announcement of the order of the Future Aircraft Carriers has been delayed; and what his estimate is of the probable in-service date of *(a)* HMS Queen Elizabeth and *(b)* HMS Prince of Wales. [134728]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* No date has been set for an announcement and there has, therefore, been no delay. However, as my noble Friend the Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support, Lord Drayson, stated in another place on 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 776, we are looking to get a robust, affordable deal negotiated quickly to allow a main investment decision to be taken as soon as possible.

With regards to in-service dates, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham (Daniel Kawczynski) on 31 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 326W.

Armed Forces: Cadets

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were enrolled in *(a)* gap year commission and *(b)* the combined cadet force in each year since 1997. [131694]

Derek Twigg: On the subject of gap year commissions, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell) on 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 687W.

Gap year commissions were introduced in 2000. Prior to 2000, personnel were granted a short service limited commission. Enrolments are interpreted to be those personnel on the strengths at each point shown.

The strength of untrained regular Army officers on a short service limited commission/gap year commission at 1 April each year is as follows:

	Strength
1997	20
1998	70

	Strength
1999	50
2000	80
2001	50
2002	80
2003	80
2004	70
2005	30
2006	40
2007	[1]60

[1] At 1 February 2007

The combined cadet force (CCF) is not a recruiting organisation. Although annual records of overall numbers in the CCF are held at 1 April each year since 1999, MOD does not keep account of yearly inflow and outflow numbers.

The annual numbers for the CCF, for years 1999 to 2006, are shown in the following table.

	Officers	Cadets	Non-commissioned officers[1]	Total
1999	1,750	40,010	210	41,970
2000	1,780	40,550	220	42,540
2001	1,790	40,780	230	42,810
2002	1,780	40,970	220	42,980
2003	1,840	41,270	230	43,340
2004	1,890	41,910	240	44,040
2005	1,910	42,460	240	44,600
2006	1,910	42,030	250	44,190

[1] School staff instructors

Note:
Totals and components have been rounded separately to the nearest 10 (numbers ending in "5" have been rounded to the nearest 20 to prevent systematic bias) and so may not equal the sum of their rounded parts.

A more detailed breakdown of the strength of all services' reserves and cadets is published annually and is available at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/tsp7/tsp7tab1.html

Armed Forces: Council Tax

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 130W, on Armed Forces: Council Tax, what options are being considered; when he expects to publish his proposals; and what powers he has to ensure that his proposals are implemented across the UK. [135421]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 2 May 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1455W.

Armed Forces: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of recruits to each of the armed forces were from ethnic minorities in each of the last five years; and how many were *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign nationals. [131099]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is currently being collated. I will write to the hon. Member when this is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Military Aircraft

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft to be brought into service. [134331]

Mr. Ingram: The planned in service date for the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft is 2010.

Armed Forces: South Africa

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency plans his Department has put in place to manage service personnel who are South African if the South African Prohibition of Mercenary Activities and Regulation of Certain Activities in Areas of Armed Conflict Bill is enacted. [135422]

Mr. Ingram: We are urgently investigating the potential consequences for South African personnel currently serving in the UK armed forces, should the legislation be enacted, so that we can support those who may be affected.

Active engagement with the South African Department of Defence is ongoing to try and mitigate the effect of the Bill on the armed forces.

Army Costs

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 749-50W, on Army costs, what the reasons were for the amount spent on maintenance of rented property occupied by the Adjutant General; and if he will break down the costs incurred for that maintenance. [129990]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* The figure of £13,284.44 previously provided under the generic heading "maintenance" covered a range of costs including the supply of replacement equipment; redecoration; rectification of faults; and the supply and erection of garden fencing. A breakdown follows:

Description of maintenance	Cost (£)
Redecoration	863
Renew trellis fence panel	39
Repair leak to cast iron stack pipe	24
Supply and erect chicken wire fence	1,150
Supply and deliver 12.5lts of supa-stadia pitch marker	17
Supply and fit hooks and white PVC coated metal chain fitted to wooden posts	1,890
Reposition and upgrade radiator wall stats	35
Remove wooden casement around hand basin and bring hand basin back into working order. Check any electrics, and make good any decoration	538
Decorations to the study and kitchen/utility room	491
Clear blockage to toilet pan	43
Renew electric shower	334
Patch repair paper to wall and repair paintwork	28
Refix gate handle to wooden gate	6
Repair to shower	82
Renew mortise lock and furniture	75
Renew shelf to inside of door to built in fridge	50
Clear blockage to toilet pan	154

Description of maintenance	Cost (£)
Refit carpet to stairs	29
Fit family size microwave oven	230
Locate/rectify fault to security lights	28
Clean carpet	25
Renew electric cooker	576
Rectifying faults to dishwasher	47
Replace dishwasher	336
Redecorate all walls after repairs	200
Smoke test chimney	29
Work following recommendations on chimney flue	195
Fit trickle vents to new PVC windows	130
Locate boiler fault and repair	210
Replace washing machine door gasket	62
Renew fluorescent light fitting	52
Ease and adjust doors	52
Renew brick paving-sand	41
Minor furniture and equipment costs	402
Purchase of tractor mower to replace beyond economical repair item	2,090
Purchase of tableware	2,686

Commonwealth Task Force

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the progress of the Commonwealth task force. [134503]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 30 April 2007]:* The Army's Foreign and Commonwealth task force was set up in 2004 and works to identify concerns and to implement practical and achievable measures to ameliorate them. Since its inception, the task force has seen adjustments to Tri-Service or Army policy and guidance, including changes in other Government Department regulations.

Notable developments have included:

Reviewing services allowances and ensuring priority allowances take account of country of origin implications;

Promulgating guidance on in-service UK naturalisation opportunities; and

Providing a Commonwealth soldiers and families information website.

The task force met most recently on 26 April 2007. There are a number of ongoing issues; dialogue continues with other Government Departments where appropriate, while work within MOD control includes providing improved guidance for non-British soldiers during initial training and improving the flow of communications through the chain of command to both soldiers and their accompanying families.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many military personnel are based in the North East. [135293]

Derek Twigg: Details of UK Regular Forces stationed in the North East region are given in the following table.

	1 April 2006	1 October 2006
Total	[1]1,510	n/a
Naval Service	30	30
Army	760	750
RAF	[1]710	n/a

n/a = not available.
[1] Provisional.

Due to the introduction of a new Personnel Administration System (JPA), RAF location data for 1 April 2006 are provisional and subject to review, and after 1 April 2006 are not available.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence establishments there are in the North East. [135294]

Derek Twigg: Within the official North East Government Office Region, the Ministry of Defence has nine establishments, excluding Reserve Forces Cadet Association sites and Careers Offices which are not considered to be main establishments.

The nine establishments are:

Albermarle Barracks

Army Museum Alnwick Castle

Bowes Moor Chemical Weapon Stores

Catterick Training Area

HMS Calliope

Otterburn Training Area

RAF Boulmer

RAF Spadeadam

Warcop Army Field Training Centre

EU Defence Policy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from non-European Union member states are assigned to the European Union Military Staff. [135356]

Mr. Ingram: None.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which British military units will form the EU Battle Group in 2008. [135357]

Mr. Ingram: The British military units which will form the EU Battle Group that the United Kingdom will have on standby in the second half of 2008 will come from our Joint Rapid Reaction Force. We have yet to nominate the particular Battalion to provide the core of this capability. A decision is likely to be taken during the summer.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service personnel are assigned to the European Union Military Staff. [135417]

Mr. Ingram: 18 British service personnel are currently assigned to the European Union Military Staff.

Ex-servicemen: Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government take to ensure that war pensioners receive priority treatment on the NHS for their accepted disablements; what systems the Government have in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these measures; and how many war pensioners were given priority treatment on the NHS for their accepted disablements in each year since 1997. [132842]

Derek Twigg: NHS hospitals should give priority to war pensioners, both as out-patients and in-patients, for examination or treatment relating to their pensioned disablement, subject to clinical priority. Reminders about priority treatment for war pensioners are circulated by the health services to senior NHS managers who are tasked to ensure that relevant clinical staff are aware.

There is no formal system to monitor or evaluate the provision, but officials take up cases with the relevant health authority where it is alleged that there is an issue around provision of priority treatment. The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency monitor these cases. The Ministry of Defence and its Service Personnel and Veterans Agency do not keep records of those war pensioners who receive priority treatment for their accepted disablements; this is a matter for the Department of Health.

Iraq: Peace-Keeping Operations

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements have been made for members of Royal Welsh Regiments 1 and 2 to visit friends and families before deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [132161]

Derek Twigg: The First and Second Battalion the Royal Welsh will be deploying to both Afghanistan and Iraq this year (in the case of the Second Battalion the Royal Welsh the entire unit will deploy to Iraq; the First Battalion the Royal Welsh will send troops to both theatres).

Generally, commanders will ensure that troops who are about to deploy receive up to three consecutive weeks leave during the two months prior to deployment.

The First Battalion the Royal Welsh (1 RW) is based permanently in Cyprus, and in most cases spouses and children are located with the unit. The elements of 1 RW who will be deploying have already had their pre-deployment leave (Friday 30 March to Wednesday 18 April). However, a handful of personnel were not able to take this in full owing to operational commitment. Arrangements are in place for those affected to return to their home base and receive the balance of leave owed shortly after the unit arrives in theatre.

The Second Battalion the Royal Welsh (2 RW) is based in Tidworth, Wiltshire. 2 RW have been on leave since after duties on Friday 30 March and returned to work on Monday 23 April.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Joint Combat Aircraft to be available for service with the Royal Navy. [134729]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 1 May 2007]:* As my hon. Friend Lord Drayson, who has ministerial responsibility for equipment and support stated in the other place on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column WA8, we will not be setting in-service dates for the Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA) until we take the main investment decision, and we will take that decision when the project is sufficiently mature. Our plans for JCA remain coherent with the CVF programme.

Navy: Deployment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1359W, on Navy: deployment, whether any other ships are held at low readiness. [134505]

Mr. Ingram: As I made clear in my letter of the 6 March 2007 to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis), copies of which were placed in the Library of the House, it is not MOD policy to publish details of the readiness states of individual RN vessels or types. The only exceptions are HMS Invincible and ships in refit: currently HMS Gloucester, HMS Liverpool, HMS Cumberland, HMS Somerset, HMS Iron Duke, HMS Chiddingfold and HMS Grimsby. These eight ships are all at low or very low readiness. In addition, HMS St. Albans is preparing for refit.

Nimrod Aircraft

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the costs of replacing the *(a)* air-to-air refuelling system, *(b)* wing fuel tanks and *(c)* single skin fuel pipes in his decision to refurbish the current fleet of Nimrod MR2 R1 aircraft. [134923]

Mr. Ingram: The MR2 and the R1 are two separate variants of the Nimrod aircraft. There are no current plans to refurbish the MR2 fleet before it is replaced by the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft. The MRA4 design was costed as a whole, not by individual elements such as the air to air refuelling system, the wing fuel tanks or the fuel system. No decisions have yet been taken on whether the R1 platform will carry the replacement for the current mission system, and whether the R1 fleet would be refurbished.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Curriculum

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he has taken to involve industry and businesses in the content of apprenticeship courses. [134762]

Phil Hope: We have listened to employers and have involved industry and businesses extensively in the

development of apprenticeships resulting in improvements to apprenticeship frameworks to keep them up-to-date and to make them more flexible. We will be working ever more closely with employer organisations to deliver the planned apprenticeship entitlement and the Leitch UK target of 500,000 apprentices by 2020. Development of new or revised apprenticeship frameworks for each industry are the responsibility of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs). Each SSC is an employer-led, independent organisation that covers a specific sector across the UK and provides employers with a unique forum to express the skills and productivity needs that are pertinent to the sector. Apprenticeship frameworks therefore reflect employer needs and requirements.

Frameworks are also submitted to a group of SSC peers for approval and to ensure minimum qualification requirements are met.

Bookstart Scheme

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in Hendon participated in the Bookstart programme in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [118472]

Beverley Hughes: Booktrust tells me that the total number of packs issued to children in Hendon between April 2006 and March 2007 is as follows:

557 Bookstart baby packs

1,058 Bookstart Plus toddler packs

828 Treasure Chest packs for 3-year-olds

Over the three year period 2005-08 we are providing £27 million to Booktrust for the Bookstart Programme.

Child Care

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding is available to support child care for children *(a)* with disabilities and *(b)* without disabilities. [118859]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are investing in a wide range of financial support for child care in England. We are investing some £3 billion each year in the delivery of free part-time nursery education so that all three and four-year-olds can benefit from 12.5 hours a week free early years provision, rising to 15 hours a week by 2010.

Further funding to support child care is also provided through the General Sure Start Grant (GSSG). This includes supporting child care for disabled children and children with special educational needs (SEN). The GSSG can be used to provide training to staff, enable early education and child care settings to make adaptations to premises and equipment, provide additional staff and support multi-agency working focused on the needs of individual children for example as developed by the Early Support Programme for disabled children and their parents.

Local authorities have the freedom to decide how much they wish to spend on activity related to disability and SEN within the GSSG based on their knowledge of the local market. In 2007-08, £664 million of revenue funding and £544 million of capital funding is available to local authorities through the GSSG. Local authorities now have a duty through the Childcare Act 2006 to secure sufficient child care provision in their area for all children with a specific focus on provision that is suitable for disabled children.

Further funding is available to parents through the child tax credit, and the working tax credit, which was introduced in April 2003. The child care element of the working tax credit is designed to help remove the child care barrier that often prevents people taking up or returning to work. It is available for meeting up to 80 per cent. of the cost of registered or approved child care to a maximum childcare cost of £175 a week for families who pay child care for one child and £300 a week for families who pay child care for two children or more. For parents with disabled children, additional funding to help with the costs of child care is provided through the disability living allowance, the carers allowance and the disability and severe disability elements of the child tax credit. A longer period of help is given to families for children with disability.

Child care can be subsidised in a variety of other ways including local authority subsidies, Jobcentre Plus New Deals, Care to Learn, Learner Support Funds and NHS child care allowances. The Department supports initiatives with sector organisations such as the National Portage Association and Kids, to raise awareness and change attitudes towards the delivery of services for disabled children. Parents of disabled children can also apply for direct payments from local authorities in some circumstances.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many people are employed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS), broken down by *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time staff; and what the average length of service is of CAFCASS employees; [134252]

(2) what the average length of time taken for a case before the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service officer was in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the last five years. [134253]

Mr. Dhanda: These are matters for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his letter will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 30 April 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the two Parliamentary Questions that you tabled recently.

The table below details the number of part-time and full-time staff CAFCASS currently employs.

	CAFCASS staff
Full-time	1,405
Part-time	491
Total	1,896

In 2006/07, of the cases that CAFCASS closed, the average duration was as follows:

Cases	Days
Public	334
Private	257

This was the first year CAFCASS could collect these figures, following the introduction of our national case management system. Prior to this, the pre-CAFCASS legacy systems prevented us being able to arrive at a robust national figure.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education Act 1996

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful appeals have been made to him by parents under sections 496 and 497 of the Education Act 1996 in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority. [133034]

Jim Knight: Data on heard and successful admissions appeals for all local education authorities in England covering the years 1997/98 to 2004/05 (the latest year for which data is available), have been placed in the House Library.

Further Education: Standards

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of the Learning and Skills Council's proposed star rating on *(a)* further education and *(b)* sixth form colleges. [133717]

Phil Hope: The proposed star rating system—the Framework for Excellence (FfE) and the associated strategies announced in the White Paper 'Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances' will be developed and implemented as part of a coherent and evolving package of reform. The framework aims to improve the quality of post-16 provision and support better-informed choices and decisions by employers and individuals, thereby contributing to better and more relevant outcomes for end users, increasing skill levels in the workforce and increased productivity.

The Framework is in an early stage of development and will be piloted this summer in approximately 100 general FE, 6th form colleges and work-based learning providers. It will enable further education institutions to use a single performance management framework, with common sets of data and performance indicators instead of a number of different frameworks. Thus the framework will be more streamlined than existing arrangements and should help to reduce bureaucracy.

Higher Education: Scholarships

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what mechanisms exist for the Office for Fair Access to ensure higher education institutions spend budgeted levels on income-assessed non-repayable bursaries. [131430]

Bill Rammell: The Office for Fair Access (OFFA) requires institutions in their annual monitoring returns to report on the amount of spend on bursaries and scholarships disbursed to low income and other under-represented groups. OFFA is then under a statutory duty to provide an annual report to Parliament containing an overview of progress. Monitoring returns are due at the end of the academic year (end of July 2007). OFFA will analyse the returns over the summer and publish a short report on the findings of the monitoring process in autumn/winter 2007.

OFFA has successfully ensured that all institutions that have chosen to set fees above the basic level have successfully completed an access agreement. As a result these institutions are forecast to deliver in excess of £300 million per year in bursaries to students. I am aware that concerns have been raised about a potential underspend on bursaries in some universities. As I said in the Higher Education debate on 15 March 2007:

> 'I have been monitoring that situation very closely. The overall scale of underspend has been exaggerated in some reports. In several universities, including a significant number in the Russell group, the projections are that there will be no underspend at all.
>
> Forecasts of spend inevitably carry with them some uncertainty, especially in the first year of an entirely new bursary scheme, and some universities set a high figure for reasons of prudent financial management. I am not in the business of unfairly or unjustly criticising people. OFFA will monitor expenditure and performance annually, and we will have a full picture of year 1 after the relevant monitoring information has been collected this summer.
>
> At the same time, universities should be doing all they can to ensure that students get the support to which they are entitled. In recent weeks, several vice-chancellors have explicitly said to me that they intend to invest any underspend in their original bursary estimates on other measures to improve social inclusion. One of them told me:
>
> "The money for bursaries is 'budgeted out'. If it cannot be spent on bursaries, then it will go to support other widening participation projects."
>
> That is heartening. I would urge all universities forecasting a genuine underspend on bursaries to take that approach.'—[*Official Report*, 15 March 2007; Vol. 458, c.494.]

Members: Correspondence

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) when he will reply to the letter of 19 January from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead on the account taken of plans for new homes in Hemel Hempstead constituency in determining the closures and amalgamations of schools in the area; [127256]

(2) when he will answer the *(a)* letter of 19 January 2007 and *(b)* question of 8 March 2007 for answer on 13 March 2007 from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead, on the account taken of plans for new homes in Hemel Hempstead constituency in determining the closures and amalgamations of schools in the area. [134034]

Jim Knight *[holding answers 13 March and 26 April 2007]:* I regret that the Department has no record of receiving the hon. Member's letter of 19 January 2007.

Changes to local school organisation, including school closures and amalgamations, require the publication of statutory proposals which are decided under local decision-making arrangements. Ministers have no role. When taking a decision on proposals, the decision maker must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. This guidance sets out a range of factors that should be considered for the different types

of proposals. The factors include considering the need for school places, taking into account pupil number projections.

Pre-school Education: Expenditure

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures the Government have in place for monitoring how funds for School Action and School Action Plus are spent; and what systems exist to evaluate the efficacy of the expenditure. [132886]

Beverley Hughes: There is a duty on local authorities to provide an explanation of that element of special educational provision for children with special educational needs (but without statements) which the local authority expects normally to be met from maintained schools' budget shares and that element of such provision that the authority expects normally to be met by funds which it holds centrally.

Local authorities must also provide information on the arrangements made by them for auditing, planning, monitoring and reviewing provision for children with special educational needs, both generally and in relation to individual children.

Details of the broad aims of local authorities' SEN policies, including the aforementioned information, must be published on their websites.

Ofsted school inspections judge the extent to which learners with special educational needs and disabilities make progress, and how effectively and efficiently schools deploy their resources to achieve value for money. Inspectorates' area-level assessments and inspections of children's services cover local authority services for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Pupil Referral Units

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many and what percentage of pupil referral units were in Ofsted categories *(a)* special measures and *(b)* notice to improve in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007, broken down by local authority; [133781]

(2) how many and what percentage of pupil referral units were in Ofsted categories *(a)* special measures, *(b)* serious weaknesses and *(c)* underachieving in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority. [133782]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Pupils: Uniforms

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he plans to discuss removing VAT on school uniforms for over 14-year-olds with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [135264]

Jim Knight: The Department has no plans to discuss removing VAT on school uniforms for over 14-year-olds with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Current guidance on school uniform advises governing bodies to give high priority to cost when setting a school uniform policy, and states that no school uniform should be so expensive as to leave pupils or their families feeling socially excluded.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many admissions appeals were *(a)* heard and *(b)* successful for pupils in London in each year since 1997, broken down by local education authority. [132646]

Jim Knight: Data on heard and successful admissions appeals for all local education authorities in England, including those for London and covering the years 1997/98 to 2004/05 (the latest year for which data are available), have been placed in the House Library.

Schools: Appeals

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the process is for appealing decisions made by the Schools Adjudicator under the Education (New Secondary School Proposals) (England) (Amendment) Regulations; and if he will make a statement. [125575]

Jim Knight: The Education Acts do not provide for any appeals against a decision taken by the schools adjudicator. There is accordingly no scope for the Education (New Secondary School Proposals) (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended) to include an appeal process. The adjudicator's decision is final and can only be challenged by application to the high court for judicial review. Similarly, the Act provided that where a school organisation committee decided a competition, that decision could only be challenged by application to the High Court for judicial review.

Schools: Asbestos

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school buildings in *(a)* England, *(b)* Greater London, *(c)* the London Borough of Havering and *(d)* Romford contain asbestos; and what steps are being taken (i) to remove the asbestos and (ii) to ensure the safety of students and staff. [134623]

Jim Knight: We do not keep information on which schools contain asbestos. However, the Health and Safety Executive advise that asbestos was commonly used in buildings constructed between 1945 and 1980. It is a requirement that the duty-holder as defined in the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations keeps records of the location and condition of asbestos in all its buildings. For local authority maintained schools, the local authority as the employer is the duty-holder. The duty-holder is responsible for the safe management of asbestos. Removal is not a requirement and where the location and condition of the asbestos permits, it is often safer to manage the asbestos in-situ. HSE has issued guidance on the safe management and control of asbestos in schools[1].

[1] http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/schools.pdf

Schools: Standards

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools in each local authority area his Department considers to be *(a)* low attaining and *(b)* under-performing. [132379]

Jim Knight: There are several ways to define low attainment and underperformance in relation to schools. The House of Commons Education Select Committee report of December 2003 recommended that a distinction should be drawn between low absolute levels of attainment (for example, a performance benchmark such as 25 per cent. five A*-C grades at GCSE) and low performance, which generally involves a value added measure.

Underperformance is particularly difficult to define with clarity. For example, by definition, 25 per cent. of all schools will appear in the bottom quartile of any performance measure, but the cohort of these schools will change year on year, so such schools are not necessarily persistent underperformers. Therefore, no schools have been formally classified as underperforming by DfES.

For the purposes of this question, low attaining primary schools are defined as those at which fewer than 65 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieved the target level 4 of the national curriculum in both English and mathematics in 2006 and where performance has been below 65 per cent. in both subjects for the previous three years. 65 per cent. is the minimum level set in the Department's floor targets for primary schools.

Low attaining secondary schools for the purpose of this question are defined as those in which less than 25 per cent. of 15-year-olds achieved five A*-C at GCSE or equivalent in 2006. 25 per cent. is the minimum level set in the Department's floor targets for secondary schools.

All low attaining schools are subject to support programmes, particularly those provided by the primary and secondary national strategies. Although we have not classified the schools as underperforming we have funded a programme that identified secondary schools that were likely to benefit from the raising attainment in teaching and learning (RAIL) initiative to tackle underperformance. A total of 764 schools are included in RAIL.

The national strategies are continuing to work with all local authorities in using comparative data to help identify underperforming primary schools and to support them in raising standards of literacy and numeracy through interventions such as the Intensifying Support programme.

The following table gives the number of schools in each local authority based on the above criteria.

Local authority	*Number of secondary schools in which less than 25% of pupils achieved 5 A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent in 2006*	*Number of primary schools in which fewer than 65% of 11-year-olds achieved the target level 4 of the national curriculum in both English and mathematics in 2006 and where performance has been below 65% in both subjects for the previous 3 years*	*Number of secondary schools which have joined the RAIL programme designed to address potential under performance*
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	3
Barnet	—	—	—
Barnsley	—	3	7
Bath and NE Somerset	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	1	—	4
Bexley	—	2	2
Birmingham	—	8	19
Blackburn	—	2	1
Blackpool	—	—	2
Bolton	—	—	5
Bournemouth	1	1	4
Bracknell Forest	—	—	3
Bradford	2	13	6
Brent	—	1	—
Brighton	—	1	2
Bristol	1	10	3
Bromley	—	—	2
Buckinghamshire	—	3	9
Bury	—	1	7
Calderdale	1	—	1
Cambridgeshire	1	—	6
Camden	—	1	—
Cheshire	1	4	12
City of London	—	—	—
Cornwall	—	1	4
Coventry	—	2	7
Croydon	—	—	3
Cumbria	2	1	15
Darlington	1	—	3

Local authority	Number of secondary schools in which less than 25% of pupils achieved 5 A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent in 2006	Number of primary schools in which fewer than 65% of 11-year-olds achieved the target level 4 of the national curriculum in both English and mathematics in 2006 and where performance has been below 65% in both subjects for the previous 3 years	Number of secondary schools which have joined the RAIL programme designed to address potential under performance
Derby	1	3	—
Derbyshire	—	1	7
Devon	1	4	11
Doncaster	—	1	6
Dorset	—	—	1
Dudley	—	1	2
Durham	—	1	15
Ealing	—	—	—
East Riding	—	1	10
East Sussex	—	3	5
Enfield	—	2	—
Essex[1]	3	4	16
Gateshead	—	—	1
Gloucestershire	1	1	6
Greenwich	—	2	—
Hackney	—	4	—
Halton	—	4	3
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	—
Hampshire	1	2	29
Haringey	—	4	1
Harrow	—	—	1
Hartlepool	—	—	1
Havering	—	1	3
Herefordshire	—	—	4
Hertfordshire	1	1	17
Hillingdon	—	—	3
Hounslow	—	—	—
Isle of Scilly	—	—	—
Isle of Wight	—	—	—
Islington	—	2	—
Kensington and Chelsea	—	—	1
Kent	1	13	9
Kingston upon Hull	—	—	5
Kingston upon Thames	—	—	—
Kirklees	1	6	8
Knowsley	—	1	8
Lambeth	—	2	—
Lancashire	1	9	15
Leeds	1	5	18
Leicester City	—	9	3
Leicestershire	—	1	12
Lewisham	—	1	—
Lincolnshire	1	1	18
Liverpool	—	5	4
Luton	1	1	6
Manchester	2	6	5
Medway	2	1	2
Merton	—	—	—
Middlesbrough	—	—	3
Milton Keynes	1	4	1
Newcastle	—	5	3
Newham	—	—	1
Norfolk	—	9	11
North East Lincolnshire	—	—	3
North Lincolnshire	—	1	8
North Somerset	—	—	6
North Tyneside	—	—	4

Local authority	Number of secondary schools in which less than 25% of pupils achieved 5 A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent in 2006	Number of primary schools in which fewer than 65% of 11-year-olds achieved the target level 4 of the national curriculum in both English and mathematics in 2006 and where performance has been below 65% in both subjects for the previous 3 years	Number of secondary schools which have joined the RAIL programme designed to address potential under performance
North Yorkshire	1	1	19
Northamptonshire[1]	2	—	16
Northumberland	—	—	3
Nottingham City[1]	4	3	—
Nottinghamshire	—	6	13
Oldham	—	2	7
Oxfordshire	—	3	15
Peterborough	—	2	3
Plymouth	—	1	3
Poole	1	—	1
Portsmouth	—	4	1
Reading	—	3	3
Redbridge	—	—	—
Redcar and Cleveland	—	—	4
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	—
Rochdale	—	1	5
Rotherham	—	3	4
Rutland	—	—	1
Salford	—	1	4
Sandwell	—	5	11
Sefton	—	2	12
Sheffield	2	11	3
Shropshire	—	—	6
Slough	—	2	1
Solihull	—	—	4
Somerset	—	3	6
South Gloucestershire	—	—	7
South Tyneside	—	2	3
Southampton	—	1	5
Southend	—	—	1
Southwark	—	1	—
St Helens	—	—	4
Staffordshire	1	4	27
Stockport	—	—	4
Stockton-on-Tees[1]	2	1	2
Stoke-on-Trent	—	7	10
Suffolk	—	3	2
Sunderland	—	2	7
Surrey	1	2	26
Sutton	—	—	1
Swindon	1	1	4
Tameside	1	2	5
Telford and Wrekin	—	2	3
Thurrock	—	1	—
Torbay	—	1	1
Tower Hamlets	—	—	—
Trafford	—	—	1
Wakefield	—	5	6
Walsall	1	4	5
Waltham Forest	—	1	—
Wandsworth	—	1	—
Warrington	—	1	2
Warwickshire	—		11
West Berkshire	—	2	3
West Sussex	—	—	14
Westminster	—	—	—
Wigan	—	—	7

Local authority	Number of secondary schools in which less than 25% of pupils achieved 5 A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent in 2006	Number of primary schools in which fewer than 65% of 11-year-olds achieved the target level 4 of the national curriculum in both English and mathematics in 2006 and where performance has been below 65% in both subjects for the previous 3 years	Number of secondary schools which have joined the RAIL programme designed to address potential under performance
Wiltshire	—	2	9
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	—	5
Wirral	—	3	1
Wokingham	—	—	3
Wolverhampton	—	2	7
Worcestershire	—	1	5
York	—	1	3
Total	47	282	784

[1] Includes one school with fewer than 10 pupils aged 15

Secondary Schools

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what changes have been made to the statistical basis for recording absences from secondary schools. [129641]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 March 2007]:* The absence data collection from secondary schools has changed from being an annual school level collection to a termly pupil level collection.

Statisticians within the Department believe that the collection of pupil level data will improve data quality and enhance the analysis we are able to conduct.

This new collection is the first opportunity to report nationally on the relationship between absence and pupil characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, special educational needs—and to highlight the concentrations of persistent absentees missing a fifth or more of lessons.

Social Workers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many social workers in England are registered with the General Social Care Council. [118971]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

On 1 May 2007 there were 76,894 social workers registered in England with the General Social Care Council.

Special Educational Needs

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many statements of individual children's special needs were compiled by local education authorities in 2006; how many recommended funding towards education at a special needs school; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the statement assessment system. [134871]

Mr. Dhanda: 22,600 new statements were issued for children with special educational needs in 2006.

Statements set out details of children's special educational needs, the provision to meet those needs and the school the child should attend. Once a statement is finalised local authorities are under a duty to arrange the specified provision. Of the new statements issued in 2006, 5,330 were for children placed in special schools. 4,870 children were placed in maintained special schools (including foundation schools); 110 were placed in non-maintained special schools; and 360 were placed in independent special schools. (Figures are taken from the SEN 2 Survey 2007 and are provisional.)

The Department's team of SEN advisers following visits to all 150 local authorities, report proactive dialogue with parents on statutory assessment matters. Excluding cases where it was impractical to comply with timescales, 95 per cent. of draft statements were produced in the 18 week statutory timescale in 2006.

The outcomes achieved by vulnerable groups of learners, including many children with SEN, are improving, for example, the proportion of children with SEN (with and without statements) achieving 5 A* to C grades at GCSE continues to rise.

Ofsted's survey "Inclusion: does it matter where pupils are taught?" (July 2006) also reported significant improvements in SEN provision since the publication of their previous survey in 2004.

Teaching Methods

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* science and *(d)* all lessons (excluding PE lessons) inspected by Ofsted were recorded as (i) setted and (ii) banded in years (A) 7, (B) 8, (C) 9, (D) 10, (E) 11 and (F) overall in each year since 2002. [134179]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 27 April 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked what proportion of (a) mathematics, (b) English, (c) science and (d) all lessons (excluding PE lessons) inspected by Ofsted were recorded as (i) setted and (ii) banded in years (A) 7, (B) 8, (C) 9, (D) 10, (E) 11 and (F) overall in each year.

The tables attached show the percentage of lessons which were setted by ability, seen by inspectors during the academic years 1996/97 to 2002/03. Prior to 1996/97 inspectors were not required to record information about grouping and from 2002/03 records do not distinguish between setting and banding. Please note that the percentages do not add up to 100% as the data here do not include other categories that are counted. For example, groups formed by age and mixed ability have not been accounted for.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the funding given to participating local authorities will be *(a)* ring fenced and *(b)* via reimbursement for specific expenditure, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1351W, on anti-social behaviour. [128664]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

This question refers to the Department for Education and Skills grant of up to £125,000, that can be accessed by 40 Respect areas and seven London boroughs. The purpose of the grant is to help improve and strengthen the delivery of parenting support in those areas, especially around the prevention and tackling of antisocial behaviour. The funding to these local authorities is non ring-fenced.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will seek legal advice on the compatibility of the ultrasonic antisocial behaviour deterrent device with *(a)* Article 3 and *(b)* Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights; and if he will make a statement; [134369]

(2) if he will require police forces to notify him of their purchase of ultrasonic antisocial behaviour deterrent devices; [134370]

(3) if he will issue guidelines to police forces on the use of the ultrasonic antisocial behaviour deterrent device Mosquito. [134368]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office encourages local agencies to consider the full range of innovations, schemes and practices intended to reduce crime, the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. It is for local agencies like the police and local authorities to decide on the most appropriate interventions to tackle antisocial behaviour based on their knowledge of what works best locally. We do encourage agencies to adopt a tiered approach with a blend of measures to provide a proportionate response. The Home Office does not promote or recommend any particular commercial product or venture above this, and as such has not sought legal advice on this device.

The Home Office has not produced guidance for police and local authorities on the use of the mosquito device, and has no plans to require the police to notify the Secretary of State if and when such a device is purchased.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances criminal antisocial behaviour orders are issued; in what ways they are different from antisocial behavioural orders; and what assessment he has made of the impact of each type of order on changing behaviour in young people. [135070]

Mr. McNulty: Antisocial behaviour orders on conviction were introduced by the Police Reform Act 2002 to allow the courts to deal with the antisocial behaviour of a convicted individual in an effective and timely manner by removing the need for a separate application to be made on complaint to the magistrates court. The order is in addition to the criminal sentence and is considered separately from the criminal part of the proceedings.

An order on conviction has the same effect as an antisocial behaviour order and lasts a minimum of two years. Breach of the terms of the order is a criminal offence, whether the order was obtained on conviction or by way of a stand alone application.

The effectiveness of the Government's antisocial behaviour policies has been assessed in two key independent reports published last year, by the National Audit Office and by the Youth Justice Board. Both confirmed that our twin track approach of support and enforcement is effective in protecting communities from antisocial behaviour. This is bringing results—nationally, the percentage of people who perceive high levels of antisocial behaviour has fallen from 21 per cent. in 2002-03 to 17 per cent. in 2005-06.

We are due to commission an evaluation of various interventions (including ASBOs) designed to tackle antisocial behaviour. This proposed research is likely to explore what impact these interventions can have on tackling antisocial behaviour problems.

Arrests

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests have been made and *(b)* charges have been brought by the police since 1997; and how many convictions arose from such charges, broken down by (i) category of offence and (ii) police authority. [128261]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* Information is not collected centrally on how cases progress from arrest to prosecution or otherwise. Data collected by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) on arrests are collected separately from data on prosecutions and their outcome. Data on numbers charged are not collected by either OCJR or the Home Office.

The available data by notifiable offence group are given in tables A1 to A10 for arrests and B1 to B9 for convictions respectively. Arrests data for years prior to 1999-2000 are not available while the data for 2005-06 on both arrests and convictions will be available later this year.

Care should be taken in interpreting the tables not least because the main offence for which a person is arrested may be different from the one which resulted in a conviction. Also people arrested within a given year will not necessarily have been convicted in the same year.

Table A1: Number of persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) within the offence group "violence against the person" by police force area, 1999-2000 to 2004-05

Police force area	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Number 2004-05
Avon and Somerset	3,327	4,325	4,304	4,458	5,060	7,056
Bedfordshire	[1]3,390	[1]2,470	[1]2,405	[1]3,540	4,440	5,420
Cambridgeshire	2,311	2,353	2,316	2,239	2,574	3,626
Cheshire	4,138	3,794	3,536	3,676	[1]3,335	5,935
City of London	n/a	n/a	357	451	405	635
Cleveland	2,949	n/a	3,210	2,918	3,809	4,893
Cumbria	2,369	2,208	2,325	2,743	2,951	4,348
Derbyshire	5,277	4,917	5,082	6,580	7,610	9,478
Devon and Cornwall	6,289	6,480	7,315	8,958	9,340	[2]10,860
Dorset	1,935	1,869	2,265	2,122	2,558	3,804
Durham	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,640	4,127
Essex	5,425	6,597	7,162	7,117	8,274	[3]9,220
Gloucestershire	2,058	1,963	2,093	2,498	2,707	3,663
Greater Manchester	11,782	11,124	10,536	11,215	14,593	19,020
Hampshire	9,002	8,254	7,914	8,422	11,100	13,376
Hertfordshire	3,187	3,250	3,366	3,598	4,583	7,576
Humberside	n/a	4,209	4,295	4,304	4,421	4,998
Kent	6,912	6,128	6,431	7,183	8,549	9,235
Lancashire	8,511	9,153	10,859	10,518	14,284	18,908
Leicestershire	3,044	3,007	3,219	3,173	3,210	4,361
Lincolnshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Merseyside	9,620	10,417	9,808	11,494	15,139	[illegible]
Metropolitan Police	35,365	32,395	31,691	34,348	36,850	[illegible]
Norfolk	4,059	4,141	4,063	3,987	4,328	5,321
North Yorkshire	5,112	4,823	5,038	6,304	7,563	[2]5,144
Northamptonshire	2,813	2,492	2,455	2,744	3,024	3,849
Northumbria	9,045	8,564	9,377	10,447	11,589	[2]14,630
Nottinghamshire	8,532	8,367	8,624	7,766	8,850	9,108
South Yorkshire	6,078	6,525	6,544	7,465	8,580	10,791
Staffordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8,140	9,365
Suffolk	2,279	2,578	2,628	3,026	3,588	4,285
Surrey	2,966	3,826	3,504	4,559	5,504	6,070
Sussex	965	4,749	[4]5,279	5,475	9,337	10,731
Thames Valley	7,824	7,992	7,910	8,814	9,995	15,293
Warwickshire	1,260	1,280	1,640	1,788	2,266	2,485
West Mercia	4,737	4,047	4,802	5,294	6,754	8,114
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	[1]23,053	24,848	23,962
West Yorkshire	12,193	15,420	12,362	14,971	17,408	20,606
Wiltshire	2,357	2,422	2,482	2,440	2,364	2,229
Dyfed Powys	n/a	2,332	2,672	3,127	3,635	3,512
Gwent	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,905	3,654	4,982
North Wales	2,907	2,738	2,705	3,596	5,578	6,591
South Wales	1,472	7,613	8,773	9,808	10,353	11,653
England and Wales	[5]255,500	[5]259,500	[5]259,400	[5]284,000	[5]332,100	[5]395,800

n/a = not available
[1] Revised since initial publication with HOSB.
[2] Revised since publication of annual HOSB. DATA as issued in HO S95 publication "Statistics on Race & cjs, 2005".
[3] Excludes divisions on NSPIS Custody (Rayleigh, Southend and partly Basildon)
[4] Covers a period of 46 weeks only—six weeks data were lost due to IT problems within the October/December quarter 2001.
[5] Estimate.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Table B1: The number of persons found guilty at all courts after being arrested and charged by the police[1] for violence against the person offences in England and Wales, by financial year 1997-98 to 2004-05[2,3,4,5,6]

Police force area	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Avon and Somerset	1,758	3,569	3,932	4,109	3,981	4,202	4,777	5,067
Bedfordshire	744	1,614	1,527	1,504	1,388	1,505	1,820	2,078
Cambridgeshire	540	1,401	1,490	1,596	1,615	1,918	1,796	2,116

Table B1: The number of persons found guilty at all courts after being arrested and charged by the police[1] for violence against the person offences in England and Wales, by financial year 1997-98 to 2004-05[2,3,4,5,6]

Police force area	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Cheshire	1,971	4,172	4,050	4,038	3,429	3,702	3,725	3,424
Cleveland	1,123	2,007	1,898	1,682	1,834	2,043	2,445	2,874
Cumbria	1,359	2,922	2,755	2,283	2,257	2,228	2,453	2,753
Derbyshire	1,802	3,567	3,641	3,488	3,525	3,845	4,377	4,739
Devon and Cornwall	2,185	4,407	4,586	4,673	4,628	5,481	5,587	5,760
Dorset	515	1,283	1,372	1,413	1,314	1,519	1,647	2,267
Durham	1,386	3,115	3,700	3,381	3,447	3,272	3,131	2,449
Essex	2,200	4,554	4,424	4,256	4,343	4,518	4,932	6,131
Gloucestershire	718	1,510	1,762	1,846	1,917	1,945	1,873	1,923
Greater Manchester	5,882	13,185	14,071	14,250	13,374	13,380	14,379	17,259
Hampshire	2,674	6,559	7,449	7,237	7,038	7,450	8,183	9,124
Hertfordshire	909	1,911	2,068	2,034	2,079	2,348	2,710	3,162
Humberside	1,882	4,043	4,070	3,968	3,448	3,937	4,721	4,583
Kent	2,353	5,525	5,351	4,847	4,404	4,363	5,006	5,002
Lancashire	4,126	8,308	7,140	6,707	7,039	7,214	7,358	7,138
Leicestershire	1,892	3,700	3,937	3,867	4,161	5,001	5,029	4,691
Lincolnshire	1,132	2,212	2,255	1,937	2,070	2,376	2,591	2,802
London, City of	100	115	202	163	182	260	252	243
Merseyside	2,592	5,150	4,618	4,980	5,419	5,837	7,486	7,833
Metropolitan Police	11,790	23,838	22,367	21,643	21,985	25,618	26,078	27,670
Norfolk	1,509	3,254	3,064	2,010	2,701	2,682	3,066	2,963
Northamptonshire	897	1,949	2,093	1,792	1,591	1,772	1,906	2,099
Northumbria	3,122	6,959	7,510	6,776	6,584	6,543	7,019	7,124
North Yorkshire	1,711	3,228	3,516	3,274	3,134	3,181	3,568	3,910
Nottinghamshire	2,623	5,105	5,292	5,448	4,765	4,568	4,977	4,813
South Yorkshire	2,320	4,307	4,231	4,505	4,633	4,807	5,295	5,753
Staffordshire	1,718	3,527	3,062	2,532	1,538	2,754	2,659	3,036
Suffolk	849	1,633	1,797	1,707	1,679	1,674	1,677	2,405
Surrey	921	1,657	1,447	1,270	1,345	1,369	1,806	2,445
Sussex	1,685	3,450	3,300	3,486	4,034	4,535	4,593	5,000
Thames Valley	2,165	4,618	4,631	4,678	4,641	4,965	5,228	5,237
Warwickshire	796	1,496	1,105	1,048	1,197	1,251	1,196	1,291
West Mercia	1,771	3,448	3,486	3,252	3,770	3,765	4,344	4,867
West Midlands	5,038	11,254	12,485	13,909	16,120	17,116	16,682	16,979
West Yorkshire	3,382	7,776	8,756	8,076	6,922	7,307	9,087	12,422
Wiltshire	749	1,757	1,828	1,711	1,901	2,009	2,241	2,201
Dyfed Powys	1,180	2,863	3,254	2,809	2,497	2,529	2,661	2,239
Gwent	1,876	3,754	4,072	4,010	3,355	3,354	2,950	3,015
North Wales	1,489	3,118	2,810	2,722	2,661	2,891	3,084	3,467
South Wales	3,504	7,181	7,617	7,355	7,552	8,481	8,673	8,941
England and Wales	90,938	191,001	194,021	188,272	187,497	201,515	215,068	231,295

[1] All convictions in the Crown court are included (those arrested and charged by the police cannot be distinguished separately although they will make up the vast majority of people tried in the Crown court).
[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures, as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.
[5] These data are for those persons proceeded against at magistrates courts that have resulted in a conviction for a recorded crime.
[6] Includes all indictable offences within the violence against the person offence group as well as recordable summary violence against the person offence group
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Asylum

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the date of application was of each claim for an extension of discretionary leave decided in the week beginning *(a)* 23 October 2006, *(b)* 30 October 2006, *(c)* 6 November 2006, *(d)* 13 November 2006, *(e)* 20 November 2006, *(f)* 27 November 2006, *(g)* 4 December 2006, *(h)* 11 December 2006 and *(i)* 18 December 2006. [133451]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested cannot be provided except by examining individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support is provided to failed asylum seekers. [134954]

Mr. Byrne: Families with children in their household when their asylum claims are finally determined continue to be eligible for asylum support under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 until they leave the UK or the youngest child reaches 18.

Support under section four of the 1999 Act is available for failed asylum seekers who have a temporary barrier to removal and who meet the eligibility criteria. Those supported are provided with accommodation and vouchers or supermarket payment cards to purchase food and essential toiletries. This is a limited form of support to meet essential needs as failed asylum seekers are expected to leave the UK.

Some failed asylum seekers may be entitled to support from a local authority under section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948.

Crime: Statistics

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to issue a public response to the recommendations put forward in the Smith Review of crime statistics; and if he will make a statement. [133677]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 24 April 2007]:* Recommendations from the Smith Review are being considered by the Crime Statistics Development Programme Board (CSDPB) which was established in January 2007. The CSDPB comprises representatives from the Home Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Association of Police Authorities (APA), the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and the Royal Statistical Society (RSS).

The Home Office plans to issue a formal response to the Smith Review when the annual statistical bulletin on crime in England and Wales is published on 19 July 2007.

Departments: Departmental Reorganisation

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department's office space on 2 Marsham Street will be shared with the Ministry of Justice. [134307]

Mr. Byrne: It is intended that a small number of staff will move to Selborne House on 9 May. However the overwhelming majority of staff transferring to the Ministry of Justice and presently housed in 2 Marsham Street will remain there after 9 May.

Departments: Olympic Games

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's first estimate was of the total contribution to be made from his departmental budget towards the costs of hosting the Olympic Games; and what his Department's latest estimate is of that cost. [133296]

Mr. Byrne: We are in discussion with the Metropolitan Police Service and other relevant Departments and agencies about the costs of ensuring a safe and secure Olympic Games. We have provided the Metropolitan Police Service and other affected police forces with up to £4.6 million in 2007-08 to enable planning and preparation. Once firm proposals and costings are available, they will be evaluated by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary before being considered by the Home Secretary. We will inform Parliament of the outcome of this process when it has concluded.

Departments: Oral Questions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many questions tabled by hon. and right hon. Members to his Department for oral answer have been transferred to other departments since May 2005. [133798]

Mr. McNulty: Since the start of this parliamentary Session the Home Office has transferred a total of three oral questions to other Departments. Details of oral questions transferred since May 2005 are not held centrally.

Deportation

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is considering deportation proceedings in the case of *(a)* Antonio Mia and *(b)* Shpetim Bujaj. [134880]

Mr. Byrne: I am not able to comment on individual cases within the House.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many allegations of assault have been made against deportation escorts in each of the last five years; and what the result has been of police investigations of allegations. [134974]

Mr. Byrne: We do not differentiate between escorts involving detainees who are subject to a deportation order and those who are subject to administrative removal. The figures given therefore cover all immigration escorts for the given periods. The figures for 2002 are not readily available and provision of these figures would be at disproportionate cost.

In the following years the figures are as follows:

	Number
2003-04	27
2004-05	79
2005-06	72
2006-07	44

All of the assault allegations received by the Border and Immigration Agency were reported to the police. None of the police investigations has resulted in charges against the escorts.

East Midlands Special Operations Unit

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will continue to provide

funding for the East Midlands Special Operations Unit. [134793]

Mr. McNulty: Following a similar amount in 2006-07, we are planning to make £8 million available in 2007-08 to help tackle the police's response to level two crime. Recommendations on the allocation of the money will be a matter for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

Entry Clearances

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department plans to decide whether to grant entry clearance to Iram Aziz Awan (reference 1070351). [134313]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

Ms Awan applied for entry clearance to the UK on 23 August 2005. Her application was refused with a right of appeal on 24 August 2005. According to records held at the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT), an appeal was received on 31 October 2005; however, this was outside the 28-day time limit from the date of refusal and was therefore dismissed by the AIT on 31 January 2006. We now consider this application to be closed.

Immigration Controls

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of applications for indefinite leave to remain were decided within *(a)* three weeks and *(b)* 13 weeks in 2006-07. [134118]

Mr. Byrne: Information in this format is not kept by the Border and Immigration Agency and could be obtained by examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to process an application for further leave to remain from an applicant who had overstayed on a visa was in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [135332]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not available and could only be obtained by examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action he is taking following the publication of his Department's Review of Home Office Publications of Control of Immigration Statistics. [102561]

Mr. Byrne: The implementation plan for the National Statistics Quality Review on Command Paper "Control of Immigration Statistics: United Kingdom" publications report was published on the Office for National Statistics and Home Office websites on 16 January 2007 on the following links:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/population.asp; and

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/cpreview07.pdf

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department has had with representatives of foreign governments on the implications of the proposed new points-based immigration system. [134355]

Mr. Byrne: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Home Office have held two events for the London based diplomatic community to brief them on the points-based immigration system. A Migration Workshop was held on 29 September 2005 and a Migration Seminar took place on 24 March 2006. The foreign press based in London were briefed by Lord Triesman and my hon. Friend the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety on 7 March 2006.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to implement the new points-based immigration system retrospectively. [134356]

Mr. Byrne: The points-based system (PBS) will not be introduced retrospectively. Anyone who is granted permission to come to, or stay in, the UK under the system that exists now will keep that permission when the PBS is introduced.

Anyone applying for further permission to stay here after the introduction of PBS will need to meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules as they are at the time he makes that application. This means that a migrant who came here under a category of the Immigration Rules that has since become part of the PBS will need to meet the PBS requirements in order to stay here when his initial permission runs out.

This is the approach that we have always taken to applications under the Immigration Rules.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of immigration systems used in other countries. [134357]

Mr. Byrne: We always look to learn from our international partners and meet regularly with them to share best practice. During the design of the points based system for managed migration, we examined how points based systems operated in other countries.

BIA officials regularly meet international partners. We are involved in the General Directors Immigration Services Conference (GDISC), a network of directors of immigration services across Europe and also the Four Countries Conference which includes Australia, Canada and the USA.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the new points-based immigration system on the *(a)* lower-skilled and *(b)* unskilled job sectors. [134358]

Mr. Byrne: Tier three of the points based system will provide for the introduction of quota-based schemes to meet labour shortages at low skill levels if these are needed. It will be for the Migration Advisory Committee to make an assessment of whether such schemes will in the future be needed to meet labour

needs in any particular sector. Such schemes will not be introduced while restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian nationals' access to low skilled employment in the United Kingdom remain in force.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate: Correspondence

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many letters from hon. Members, Peers and members of the devolved assemblies were received by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in each year from 2003 to 2006. [135057]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 30 April 2007]*: The Border and Immigration Agency received 26,577 such letters in 2003, 38,015 letters in 2004, 41,086 letters in 2005 and 41,534 in 2006

Immigration: EU Enlargement

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether he plans to provide specific information for Scottish local authorities to clarify their duties for homeless EU2 migrants; [127307]

(2) whether he plans to make available to local authorities in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and (d) Northern Ireland information regarding their duties towards EU2 migrants; [127308]

(3) what steps are being taken to clarify to local authorities the entitlement of EU2 migrants for local authority services, including housing and social services and homelessness assistance, across the UK. [127310]

Mr. Byrne: Local authorities' responsibilities towards Bulgarian and Romanian nationals are similar to those for other EEA nationals, except with regard to employment, where restrictions have been maintained. Guidance on the rights and responsibilities with respect to work and employment is available on the IND website:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk.

The Scottish Executive has issued a statutory code of guidance to local authorities on EU nationals' eligibility for homelessness assistance in Scotland. This guidance can be accessed via the Scotland Executive website:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/2005.

The Home Office has not received any requests from local authorities with respect to the employment of Bulgarian and Romanian nationals. Guidance on eligibility for homelessness assistance is available from the Department for Communities and Local Government (which applies to England) and the Scottish Executive. Guidance on entitlement to benefits is available from the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is working with the Improvement and Development Agency to share good practice on migration from the EU. A national event was held for local authorities in England on 21 March and a good practice toolkit will be issued in May 2007.

Immigration: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted leave to remain in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [133623]

Mr. Byrne: There were 810 people[1] who were granted leave to remain in Northern Ireland between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007.

[1] The aforementioned data is not provided under the National Statistics protocols. It shows volumes of applicants granted leave to remain decisions (regardless of application type) made within General Group in Managed Migration. It has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

Immigration: Telephone Services

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1058W, on immigration: telephone services, how many calls were received by the Border and Immigration Agency MPs' hotline in each year from 2003 to 2006. [135056]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 30 April 2007]*: From 1 June 2003 to 31 December 2003 the Border and Immigration Agency MPs' hotline received 15,728 telephone calls; in 2004 it received 31,393 calls; in 2005 it received 34,338 calls and in 2006 it received 31,749 calls from Members of Parliament, the House of Lords and Members of the devolved Assemblies.

Statistical information is only available from 1 June 2003 onwards.

Naturalisation: Assessments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who were awarded passes in the Life in the UK citizenship test subsequently had that pass revoked in each month since November 2005. [125951]

Mr. Byrne: Appropriate action will be taken where concerns remain about an applicant's knowledge of English or UK society. This will apply if they seek settlement or citizenship or even after such a status has been granted to them.

The precise action to be taken will depend on the circumstances of an individual case but might include requiring a further test or an independent analysis of their language ability. The Government take very seriously any attempts to circumvent the legal requirements for settlement and citizenship, for example by taking part in fraudulent activity in order to obtain a pass certificate for the test. Ultimately revocation of, or refusal to grant settlement or citizenship may be appropriate in some cases.

Passports

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on compensation for time remaining on the validity of an existing passport where a person seeks a new passport to take account of a name change following marriage. [134692]

Joan Ryan: No compensation is currently paid for time remaining on a passport which is replaced before expiry for any reason, although up to nine months unused validity is transferred to the new passport. The Identity and Passport Service has to recover all its costs through fees and a replacement passport costs as much to issue as a passport renewed on expiry. The possibility of a reduction in fees in these circumstances will be considered with HM Treasury when passport fees are next reviewed.

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police staff associations were consulted in advance of the announcement to review the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. [133364]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* No police staff associations were consulted in advance of the announcement to review PACE 1984.

When the consultation paper was published it was formally sent to all police staff associations groups (ACPO, the Police Federation, the Police Superintendents Association and Unison) along with a notification that officials would contact them in due course to arrange bilateral meetings before the formal consultation period closes (at the end of May).

Police Cautions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been given conditional cautions by the police since 1997; and what percentage went on to re-offend. [134765]

Mr. McNulty: The conditional cautioning scheme, introduced in the Criminal Justice Act 2003, is in the process of being implemented across criminal justice areas on a phased basis, and is not currently available across all areas. The central collection of numbers of conditional cautions administered began on one January 2005, but the data quality in its first year was deemed not to be adequate for any figures to be released. Totals for 2006 will not be available until November this year.

Police: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures his Department is considering introducing to reduce the levels of recorded assaults against *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers. [132958]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* There have been several recent developments which seek to reduce the levels of recorded assaults against police officers and police community support officers.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary following collaboration with key stakeholders has recently published a review of officer safety training entitled "Safety matters". This report contains recommendations to assist in the reduction of injuries and is now available for forces to consider and apply. The Health and Safety Executive has been fully consulted and collaborated with HMIC on the development of this paper and supports the report.

In addition the National Health and Safety Standing Committee recently agreed a joint report on benchmarking standards a "Strategy For a Healthy Police Service" which has been approved by ACPO council, and its implementation is being supported by the National Policing Improvement Agency.

This sets standards on issues affecting individual health and safety including personal safety training. Each of the major principles will be developed through the ACPO Joint Advisory group on Health, Safety and Welfare. Again there was full consultation with the HSE with regard to this document.

Also a Fitness Sub Group of the National Recruitment Standards—a standing committee of the Police Advisory Board—has been established. Emanating from this will be further research on this topic.

Police: Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of whether the resources available to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis are adequate for the purpose of enforcing the ban on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam; and if he will make a statement. [133289]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis is responsible for the day to day operational management of the force.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the ratio of police to public was in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each year since 1997; [134678]

(2) how many police officers per 100,000 residents there were in each police authority in England in each year since 1997. [134680]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are given in the table. The relationship between the number of police officers and the number of members of the public are published in the form of "Total officers per 100,000 population" and these data have been provided.

Police strength data are published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales". The latest publication (data as at 31 March 2006) can be downloaded from:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1306.pdf

Police officers (FTE)[1] per 100,000 population[2] by English police force[3] as at 31 March 1997 to 2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Avon and Somerset	204	203	203	197	197	205	213	220	225	226
Bedfordshire	200	197	189	185	184	189	198	210	215	213
Cambridgeshire	188	184	179	172	179	187	196	197	194	196

Police officers (FTE)[1] per 100,000 population[2] by English police force[3] as at 31 March 1997 to 2006

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Cheshire	209	208	211	204	204	209	217	224	223	223
Cleveland	261	266	255	252	253	263	294	314	305	308
Cumbria	233	237	229	220	213	224	237	254	257	256
Derbyshire	187	184	182	183	187	189	210	216	213	212
Devon and Cornwall	186	192	186	182	187	192	204	208	212	219
Dorset	189	192	186	189	196	198	205	209	211	216
Durham	240	249	258	256	263	266	281	288	293	288
Essex	197	193	190	183	178	181	186	192	198	203
Gloucestershire	205	198	197	200	209	209	219	229	230	228
Greater Manchester	268	270	265	264	268	279	298	323	321	318
Hampshire	198	199	197	193	193	195	208	211	212	211
Hertfordshire	205	202	198	201	184	174	191	204	206	208
Humberside	230	228	223	219	217	234	244	256	255	251
Kent	210	209	204	203	209	210	221	228	227	227
Lancashire	228	229	228	223	228	231	239	252	251	253
Leicestershire	211	214	215	215	218	224	232	246	246	241
Lincolnshire	196	193	184	179	191	189	191	189	185	183
London, City of	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Merseyside	296	297	298	290	291	294	302	303	318	315
Metropolitan Police	367	356	352	341	351	366	404	420	433	417
Norfolk	185	184	176	175	178	183	189	190	192	193
Northamptonshire	196	193	186	181	186	194	194	198	201	207
Northumbria	256	263	269	266	272	278	290	294	294	291
North Yorkshire	183	186	181	173	175	188	193	203	206	216
Nottinghamshire	225	225	216	214	214	226	239	245	245	243
South Yorkshire	242	244	243	243	243	246	252	261	260	259
Staffordshire	209	217	211	204	201	201	212	218	220	219
Suffolk	180	179	179	171	168	177	188	196	195	191
Surrey	209	207	212	227	192	184	182	183	184	184
Sussex	211	203	191	188	188	190	203	206	205	207
Thames Valley	180	183	180	178	175	177	186	195	198	202
Warwickshire	186	185	180	178	182	190	198	197	195	198
West Mercia	183	180	180	166	171	176	196	202	203	202
West Midlands	270	271	278	274	283	293	307	311	316	318
West Yorkshire	247	244	236	228	228	230	242	254	271	270
Wiltshire	195	195	192	185	184	189	190	198	198	196

[1] Full-time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number. Figures up to 31 March 2002 'exclude' staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The figures for 31 March 2003 onwards 'include' those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] Officers per 100,000 population for city of London and Metropolitan police are combined.
[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.

Public Order Offences

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many penalty notices for disorder were issued in 2006, broken down by *(a)* police force and *(b)* offence committed; [132406]

(2) how many penalty notices for disorder issued in 2006 were paid within 21 days of issue. [132407]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 April 2007]:* Provisional data from the Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) Database showing the number of PNDs issued, broken down by offence and police force area, are provided in the tables.

The figures show that the PND has been an increasingly useful disposal option for the police in tackling low-level antisocial behaviour, providing them with a simple, non-bureaucratic financial punishment. The figures also show a wide variation in the numbers of PNDs issued for the same offence from force to force. This reflects the fact that the extent to which PNDs are used is a matter for individual forces according to their local operational factors and requirements.

Of the 192,583 PNDs issued in 2006, 74,182 penalties were paid within the 21-day suspended enforcement period (SEP) with a further 26,068 being outside the SEP. 21 days is the minimum period before forces can register a fine against the recipient for not responding to a notice, so forces can accept payments after the SEP for administrative purposes.

Finalised data for 2006 will be available this summer.

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over by offence and police force area, England and Wales 2006 provisional data[1]

Police force area	Total all offences	Total higher tier offences	DA01 Wasting police time	DA02 Misuse of public telecoms system	DA03 Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	DA04 Causing harassment, alarm or distress
Avon and Somerset	3,876	3,768	76	27	2	1,648

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to offenders aged 16 and over by offence and police force area, England and Wales 2006 provisional data[1]

Police force area	Total all offences	Total higher tier offences	DA01 Wasting police time	DA02 Misuse of public telecoms system	DA03 Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	DA04 Causing harassment, alarm or distress
Bedfordshire	1,602	1,571	8	3	0	618
Cambridgeshire	1,346	1,260	21	1	0	429
Cheshire	2,265	2,256	16	4	1	1,225
Cleveland	3,552	3,538	40	9	0	2,015
Cumbria	1,677	1,625	15	5	2	410
Derbyshire	2,537	2,461	68	28	4	616
Devon and Cornwall	6,976	6,685	92	78	8	1,756
Dorset	2,262	2,171	40	3	2	1,241
Durham	1,583	1,559	24	3	2	832
Essex	4,357	4,273	63	22	0	1,998
Gloucestershire	2,654	2,608	78	23	1	1,215
Greater Manchester	10,532	10,437	334	24	15	6,804
Hampshire	4,365	4,258	82	71	2	2,582
Hertfordshire	5,312	5,191	82	86	2	2,628
Humberside	5,385	5,321	75	22	2	2,256
Kent	6,889	6,708	64	34	4	1,204
Lancashire	12,401	12,097	251	53	12	3,004
Leicestershire	2,376	2,337	80	3	2	1,398
Lincolnshire	1,930	1,917	25	16	0	1,213
London, City of	305	301	0	0	0	84
Merseyside	11,269	11,022	183	29	4	3,481
Metropolitan	20,171	18,914	467	31	0	9,652
Norfolk	1,323	1,294	9	0	1	806
North Yorkshire	2,367	2,214	9	1	0	631
Northamptonshire	2,498	2,459	48	8	0	829
Northumbria	6,307	6,232	52	16	3	1,145
Nottinghamshire	2,205	2,164	45	5	2	1,060
South Yorkshire	5,989	5,824	111	19	8	2,263
Staffordshire	3,209	3,056	54	6	3	1,851
Suffolk	1,460	1,427	22	11	0	648
Surrey	2,819	2,634	30	14	0	1,441
Sussex	5,023	4,846	45	25	1	1,577
Thames Valley	6,676	6,598	86	10	3	4,792
Warwickshire	1,016	997	24	4	2	511
West Mercia	3,433	3,359	82	29	2	1,109
West Midlands	7,925	7,714	367	13	9	2,731
West Yorkshire	8,866	8,735	312	52	2	2,466
Wiltshire	1,224	1,138	11	2	0	714
Dyfed Powys	1,353	1,252	28	4	0	571
Gwent	1,908	1,862	49	9	0	610
North Wales	6,049	5,851	139	29	0	2,625
South Wales	5,311	5,188	47	7	0	1,913
England and Wales	192,583	187,122	3,752	839	101	78,602

	DA05 Throwing fireworks	DA06 Drunk and disorderly	DA11 Criminal damage (under £500)	DA12 Theft (retail under £200)	DA13 Breach of fireworks curfew	DA14 Possession of category 4 firework	DA15 Possession by person under 18 of adult firework
Avon and Somerset	4	176	453	1,318	2	1	0
Bedfordshire	3	293	196	437	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	10	260	147	365	0	0	0
Cheshire	4	124	299	527	0	1	3
Cleveland	3	295	461	684	1	0	0
Cumbria	4	686	226	240	1	0	0
Derbyshire	4	660	502	534	1	0	3
Devon and Cornwall	41	1,876	924	1,753	3	0	1
Dorset	11	165	235	441	0	0	0
Durham	2	511	110	69	0	0	0

	DA05 Throwing fireworks	DA06 Drunk and disorderly	DA11 Criminal damage (under £500)	DA12 Theft (retail under £200)	DA13 Breach of fireworks curfew	DA14 Possession of category 4 firework	DA15 Possession by person under 18 of adult firework
Essex	18	859	337	872	2	1	3
Gloucestershire	11	166	406	662	4	0	0
Greater Manchester	63	311	920	1,727	1	3	2
Hampshire	22	501	307	575	0	1	0
Hertfordshire	15	207	696	1,414	0	0	3
Humberside	15	991	696	1,201	0	0	2
Kent	11	1,782	1,131	2,468	1	1	2
Lancashire	24	4,876	1,394	2,242	7	1	2
Leicestershire	1	72	221	488	0	0	1
Lincolnshire	16	96	205	272	5	0	1
London, City of	0	190	6	21	0	0	0
Merseyside	28	3,222	1,097	2,824	1	3	8
Metropolitan	97	3,114	1,179	4,085	3	5	22
Norfolk	0	88	92	284	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	3	876	306	362	3	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	532	311	689	1	1	3
Northumbria	18	3,929	450	515	1	1	0
Nottinghamshire	4	494	126	184	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	27	2,360	332	540	1	0	0
Staffordshire	32	343	312	359	1	1	3
Suffolk	5	345	140	231	2	0	0
Surrey	2	355	280	469	1	0	0
Sussex	31	1,435	478	1,015	5	0	4
Thames Valley	22	237	447	895	2	0	0
Warwickshire	3	58	167	219	0	3	0
West Mercia	17	680	482	922	1	0	0
West Midlands	28	2,541	610	1,258	0	2	1
West Yorkshire	14	3,737	1,163	873	0	0	1
Wiltshire	6	331	33	18	0	0	0
Dyfed Powys	5	286	216	124	0	0	0
Gwent	11	258	271	597	1	1	1
North Wales	24	1,246	538	1,099	1	2	0
South Wales	5	744	752	1,591	0	0	2
England and Wales	664	42,308	19,654	37,463	52	28	68

	DA16 Sale of alcohol to drunken person	DA17 Supply of alcohol to person under 18	DA18 Sale of alcohol to person under 18	DA19 Purchase alcohol for person under 18	DA20 Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	DA21 Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery
Avon and Somerset	0	3	54	3	1	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	12	1	0	1
Cambridgeshire	1	0	24	2	0	4
Cheshire	0	0	49	3	0	1
Cleveland	0	1	23	5	1	0
Cumbria	6	2	21	7	0	0
Derbyshire	1	0	30	9	3	12
Devon and Cornwall	1	10	115	27	0	8
Dorset	1	1	25	5	1	0
Durham	0	0	1	5	0	0

	DA16 Sale of alcohol to drunken person	DA17 Supply of alcohol to person under 18	DA18 Sale of alcohol to person under 18	DA19 Purchase alcohol for person under 18	DA20 Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	DA21 Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery
Essex	0	0	91	6	1	3
Gloucestershire	0	0	39	0	3	3
Greater Manchester	3	1	189	32	8	11
Hampshire	1	2	97	14	1	4
Hertfordshire	0	1	36	19	2	18
Humberside	0	1	47	13	0	4
Kent	1	0	5	0	0	14
Lancashire	4	0	202	22	3	20
Leicestershire	4	0	63	2	2	7
Lincolnshire	0	6	54	7	1	0
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	2	123	14	3	30
Metropolitan	7	4	239	9	0	27
Norfolk	0	0	10	4	0	1
North Yorkshire	1	1	11	10	0	6
Northamptonshire	0	0	32	4	1	4
Northumbria	0	0	79	21	2	7
Nottinghamshire	1	0	239	3	1	2
South Yorkshire	0	0	153	10	0	29
Staffordshire	4	4	75	6	2	8
Suffolk	0	1	20	2	0	0
Surrey	1	0	33	8	0	3
Sussex	1	0	209	18	2	12
Thames Valley	0	2	95	7	0	4
Warwickshire	0	0	5	1	0	1
West Mercia	0	0	31	3	1	7
West Midlands	0	0	143	10	1	5
West Yorkshire	1	1	104	5	4	2
Wiltshire	3	0	18	2	0	0
Dyfed Powys	0	12	5	1	0	1
Gwent	0	1	48	4	1	5
North Wales	5	1	81	51	10	24
South Wales	0	0	116	10	1	6
England and Wales	47	57	3,046	385	56	294

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

		Lower tier offences			
	Total lower tier offences	DB03 Trespass on a railway	DB04 Throwing stones at a train/railway	DB05 Drunk in a highway	DB06 old code—Buy alcohol under 16, change to DA19
Avon and Somerset		0	0	64	0
Bedfordshire		1	0	14	0
Cambridgeshire		0	0	67	0
Cheshire		0	0	4	0
Cleveland		0	0	0	0
Cumbria		2	0	25	0
Derbyshire		1	0	9	0
Devon and Cornwall		7	2	240	0
Dorset		1	0	9	0
Durham		0	0	23	0
Essex		8	1	33	0
Gloucestershire		0	0	20	0

		Lower tier offences			
	Total lower tier offences	*DB03 Trespass on a railway*	*DB04 Throwing stones at a train/railway*	*DB05 Drunk in a highway*	*DB06 old code—Buy alcohol under 16, change to DA19*
Greater Manchester		11	0	24	0
Hampshire		4	0	26	0
Hertfordshire		19	0	15	0
Humberside		0	0	14	0
Kent		4	0	113	0
Lancashire		7	0	106	0
Leicestershire		0	0	2	2
Lincolnshire		0	0	0	0
London, City of		0	0	4	0
Merseyside		8	2	58	2
Metropolitan		22	2	586	0
Norfolk		0	0	24	0
North Yorkshire		2	0	131	0
Northamptonshire		0	0	26	0
Northumbria		1	0	10	1
Nottinghamshire		2	0	11	0
South Yorkshire		1	0	10	0
Staffordshire		8	0	87	0
Suffolk		1	0	26	0
Surrey		4	0	168	0
Sussex		10	1	124	0
Thames Valley		2	0	35	0
Warwickshire		0	0	2	0
West Mercia		3	0	24	0
West Midlands		59	0	103	0
West Yorkshire		4	0	77	0
Wiltshire		0	2	73	0
Dyfed Powys		0	0	98	0
Gwent		3	0	11	0
North Wales		18	0	49	0
South Wales		3	0	77	0
England and Wales		216	10	2,622	5

	Lower tier offences			
	DB08 Depositing and leaving litter	*DB12 Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises*	*DB13 Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises*	*DB14 Buying or attempting to buy alcohol for person under 18*
Avon and Somerset	19	0	0	1
Bedfordshire	4	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	4	1	0	0
Cheshire	3	0	0	0
Cleveland	9	2	0	0
Cumbria	19	0	0	4
Derbyshire	26	6	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	23	0	0	3
Dorset	21	0	0	1
Durham	1	0	0	0
Essex	31	2	0	1
Gloucestershire	2	2	1	1
Greater Manchester	29	1	0	0

	Lower tier offences			
	DB08 Depositing and leaving litter	*DB12 Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises*	*DB13 Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises*	*DB14 Buying or attempting to buy alcohol for person under 18*
Hampshire	32	0	0	1
Hertfordshire	34	3	0	13
Humberside	15	0	0	2
Kent	35	2	0	1
Lancashire	71	7	0	9
Leicestershire	11	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	11	0	0	2
London, City of	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	90	8	2	7
Metropolitan	228	0	1	0
Norfolk	3	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	7	0	0	1
Northamptonshire	6	0	0	0
Northumbria	49	1	2	2
Nottinghamshire	20	1	1	0
South Yorkshire	79	1	0	0
Staffordshire	24	9	1	7
Suffolk	6	0	0	0
Surrey	5	0	0	1
Sussex	17	1	3	3
Thames Valley	11	0	0	0
Warwickshire	5	10	0	0
West Mercia	30	0	1	5
West Midlands	24	1	0	0
West Yorkshire	34	6	1	0
Wiltshire	2	1	0	1
Dyfed Powys	2	0	0	0
Gwent	14	0	0	1
North Wales	48	3	0	3
South Wales	21	1	0	0
England and Wales	1,125	69	13	70

Special Constables: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special constables there are in the Metropolitan Police Service; how many there were in each year since 1997; how many *(a)* were and *(b)* are civilian staff serving in the Metropolitan Police Service in each year; how many undertook their training and their special constable duties during their normal working hours as civilian staff; and how many received time off in lieu or extra holiday time for their duties as special constables. [134485]

Mr. McNulty: The available data for the number of special constables in the Metropolitan Police Service in each year since 1997 are given in the table. These data are also published in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales".

The remainder of the information requested is not collected centrally.

Special constable strength[1] for the Metropolitan Police Service as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2006

31 March:	*Special constables*
1997	1,714
1998	1,282
1999	1,138
2000	758
2001	774
2002	680
2003	692
2004	742
2005	697
2006[2]	1,221

[1] Total strength is based on headcount figures.

[2] The MPS have held a number of successful special constable recruitment campaigns over the years, the most recent of which ran throughout 2005 and would have been responsible for the increase from 2004-05 to 2005-06. Additionally, some of these changes are thought to be explained by the move from paper-based to computerised recording systems.

Written Questions

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer question 107856, on DC Stephen Oake, tabled on 30 November 2006 by the hon. Member for West Bromwich East. [125790]

John Reid *[holding answer 6 March 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1576W.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Arts

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding was allocated to the arts in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997; and what the percentage change was between each year. [130959]

Maria Eagle: Funding provided for the arts in Northern Ireland in each year since 1999-2000 is shown in the following table, together with the percentage change between each year. Data for previous years are not readily available. The figures include both revenue funding and capital funding.

Financial year	*Total funding provided by Departments*	*Percentage change*
1999-00	8,461,181.46	
2000-01	8,245,611	-2.54
2001-02	9,067,800	9.97
2002-03	11,078,537.13	22.17
2003-04	15,151,520.90	36.76
2004-05	14,277,212.91	-5.77
2005-06	14,890,675.62	4.3
2006-07	[1]15,348,890.08	3.1

[1] Provisional

The information provided in the table may be incomplete as the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety do not hold full information prior to 2003-04.

The Department for Social Development has also provided funding for the arts under Peace II for which details are only available in calendar years. In 2006 £52.4k was provided to the Community Arts Forum. The funding provided by DSD under Peace II for other arts based projects for the period 2002 to date is £565.6k. These figures are not included in the table.

Departments: Internet

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which websites received funding from his Department and its associated agencies in each of the last five years; and how much was allocated in each case. [130956]

Mr. Hain: The following table show the websites directly funded by the NIO and its agencies in the last five years.

£

Website	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
www.nio.gov.uk	0	730	[1]51,205	9,118	7,543
www.niprisonservice.gov.uk	14,900	9,100	15,400	5,306	3,600
www.octf.gov.uk	9,104	4,320	360	11,994	3,978
www.causeway.gov.uk	819	773	1,125	879	168
www.cjsni.gov.uk	0	0	0	5,316	5,952
www.littlebookofstuff.org	0	0	0	0	9,000
www.youthjusticeagencyni.gov.uk	0	11,338	1,938	12,069	3,125
www.youthconferenceserviceni.gov.uk	0	7,637	0	193	0
www.sentencereview.org	0	646	1,880	635	552
www.lsrcni.org.uk	376	364	882	834	176
www.communitysafetyni.gov.uk	3,760	0	0	546	2,719
www.howsecureismyhome.com	0	0	0	0	1,145
www.projectrioh.net	0	0	0	[2]26,437	12,214
www.reportinghate.org	0	0	0	120	5,310

[1] This figure includes the costs for a major redesign of the website.
[2] This figure includes the costs for the initial design and development of the website.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are in place to limit the amount of money spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior civil servants in each Department in Northern Ireland. [132210]

Mr. Hanson: DAO (DFP) 10/06 sets out general principles on the provision of gifts and hospitality, which will include alcohol, and requires each NI Department to have its own guidance and approval processes tailored to suit their business needs. This will cover *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior civil servants where expenditure comes out of the departmental budget.

NIO has its own guidance and approval process for hospitality (including alcohol) that covers Ministers and senior civil servants.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what the end of year underspends for 2006-07 were for each of the Northern Ireland Departments; [132224]

(2) what overspends there were in budget lines of Northern Ireland Departments for 2006-07. [132225]

Mr. Hanson: Outturn data, regarding spending by Northern Ireland Departments in 2006-07, will not be available until late May 2007.

Human Trafficking

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the extent of human trafficking in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [133031]

Paul Goggins: Analysis of human trafficking in Northern Ireland is currently under way through the auspices of the QCTF Immigration and Human Trafficking Expert Group to assess the scale of the threat.

This analysis will update the assessment of a scoping report into human trafficking in 2006 which concluded that Northern Ireland did not, at that time, have an identifiable problem.

Licensed Premises

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many businesses were found to be selling alcohol without a licence to do so in each district council area in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years; and what penalty was imposed in each case in which all proceedings are complete. [130923]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not available in the form requested. The following information has been collated on the basis of two offences:

selling intoxicating liquor without a licence; and

licensee making liquor available in unlicensed premises.

Information is presented by district command unit. PSNI does not have records relating to penalties imposed in all cases.

	District command unit	*Penalty imposed*
2001 (2)	Belfast North	Community service order
	Belfast North	Bound over
2002 (6)	Belfast North	No court appearances or court results
	Belfast South	Imprisonment
	Larne	No court appearances or court results
	Newry and Mourne	No court appearances or court results
	Newry and Mourne	No court appearances or court results
	Newry and Mourne	Cautioned
2003 (7)	Armagh	Withdrawn
	Armagh	Withdrawn
	Belfast East	Cautioned
	Belfast South	3 actual or scheduled court appearances but no court result
	Belfast South	3 cautioned
	Belfast South	Fine
	Newry and Mourne	Cautioned
2004 (6)	Belfast East	Cautioned
	Belfast North	Cautioned
	Belfast South	No court appearances or court results
	Belfast South	Fine
	Coleraine	Bound over
	Fermanagh	Fine
2005 (5)	Newtownards	Cautioned
	Belfast East	Fine
	Belfast East	Withdrawn
	Belfast East	Withdrawn
	Magherafelt	Withdrawn
2006 (4)	Banbridge	Fine
	Belfast East	Fine
	Craigavon	Imprisonment
	Craigavon	Imprisonment

National Income

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of the British gross domestic product comes from Northern Ireland. [135071]

Mr. Hanson: Northern Ireland gross value added accounted for 2.3 per cent. of UK gross value added in 2005.

Northern Ireland Social Security Agency

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Medical Support Service within the Social Security Agency; and if he will make a statement. [135402]

Mr. Hanson: A thorough and detailed analysis of Medical Support Services was completed in January 2007. The conclusion was that while Medical Support Services was currently 'Fit for Purpose' it would not have the capacity or capability to deliver a sufficient level of service to support the extended roll-out of Pathways to Work and the introduction of the new employment and support allowance.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will abandon plans to outsource the Social Security Agency's medical support service. [135403]

Mr. Hanson: As the procurement process has already commenced, there are no plans to abandon the decision to outsource the Medical Support Service within the Social Security Agency.

Open Skies Aviation Agreement

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the draft Open Skies aviation agreement. [128134]

David Cairns: The Secretary of State for Transport has kept colleagues informed of progress with on-going negotiations on the draft EU/US Open Skies aviation agreement.

Right to Buy Schemes

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of tenants who exercised the right to buy were receiving housing benefit in each of the last five years. [135995]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested for full financial years is only available from 2004-05. The percentage of tenants receiving housing benefit at the date of completion of the purchase of their home during the last three financial years is shown in the following table.

	Percentage
2004-05	8.9
2005-06	6.8
2006-07	7.1

St Patrick's Day: Belfast

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much public money was made available to support the Belfast Saint Patrick's day parade and festival in 2006. [134814]

Maria Eagle: The St. Patrick's day parade and festival is promoted by Belfast city council and public funding made available to the council for the 2006 event is shown in the following table.

	£
Sponsoring organisation	*Amount*
Community Relations Unit, OFMDFM	41,376
Arts Council of Northern Ireland	25,000
Laganside Corporation	10,000
Total	76,376